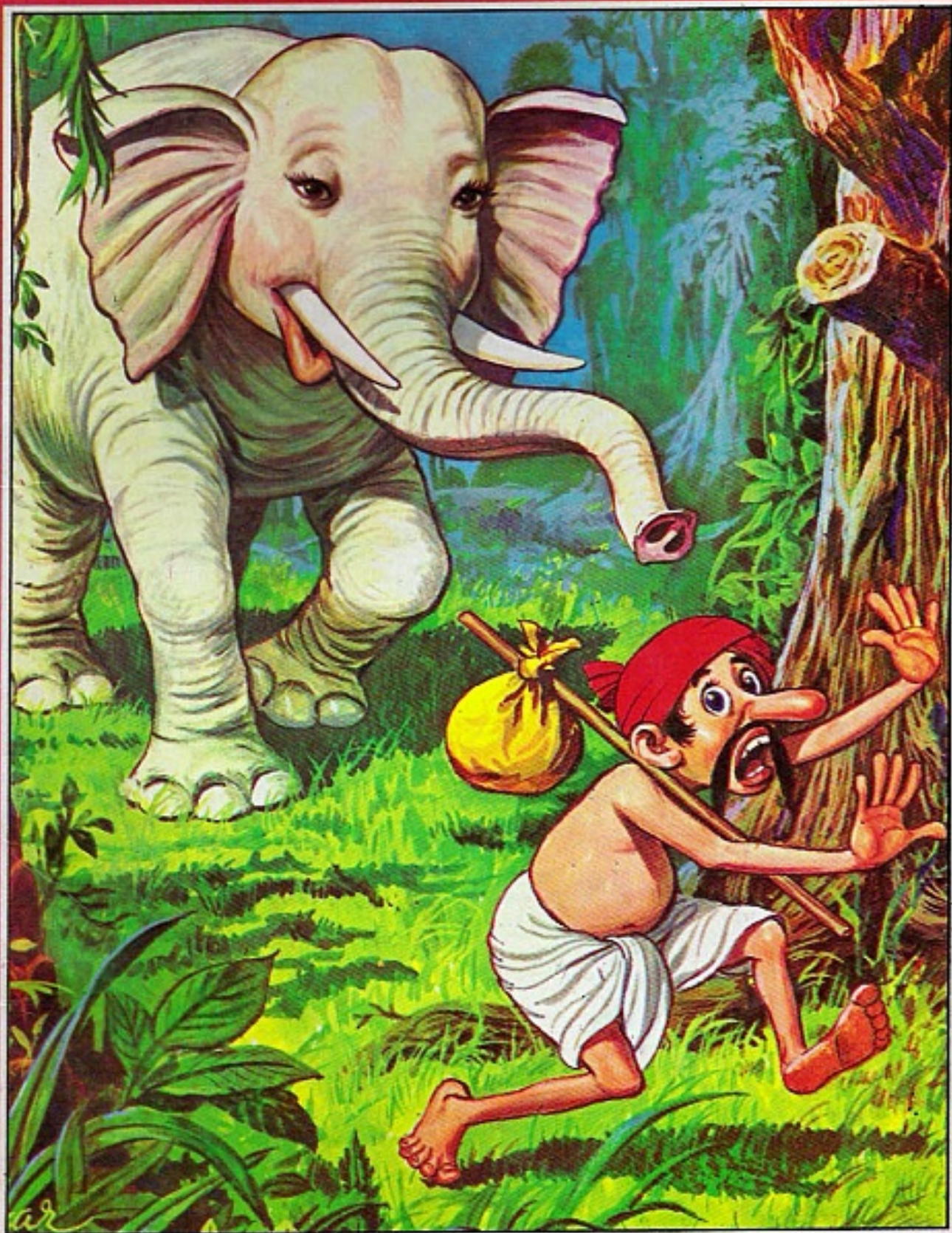




# Jataka Tales

## Elephant Stories

Vol. 554 Rs 25



Amar Chitra Katha: the Glorious Heritage of India





# Jataka Tales

## Elephant Stories

All living creatures die to be born again, so the Hindus believe. The Buddha was no exception. Legend has it that several lifetimes as a Bodhisattva went into the making of the Buddha, the Enlightened one.

The Bodhisattva came in many forms - man, monkey, deer, elephant. Whatever his mortal body, he spread the message of justice and wisdom, tempered with compassion. This wisdom, the wisdom of right thinking and right living, is preserved in the Jataka tales.

India has been called the story-teller of the world. It is her particular glory to have told the world story after entertaining story that illustrates the precepts of righteous living.

Amar Chitra Katha has already brought to the reader Jataka monkey stories and Jataka deer stories. In this issue we bring you elephant tales that will teach some of the truths that the Bodhisattva experienced in his numerous lives on earth.

AMAR CHITRA KATHA means good reading.  
Over 78 million copies sold so far.

*Script: Lakshmi Lal*

*Illustrations: Ashok Dongre*

**Editor : Anant Pai**

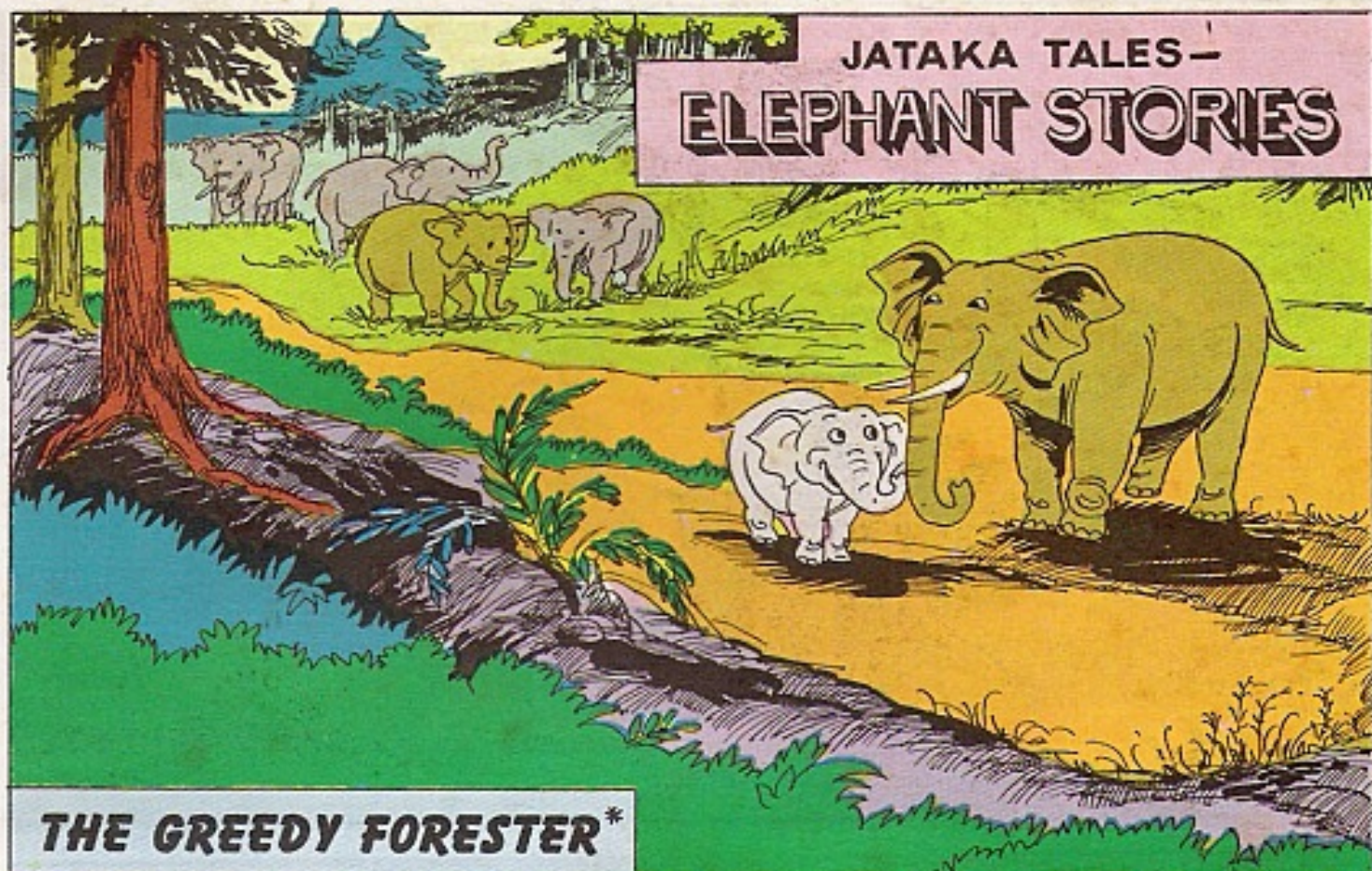
© India Book House Limited. 1977. • Reprinted July, 1999.

ISBN 81- 7508 - 057 - 4

Published by Anant Pai for India Book House Limited, Fleet Bldg, Mathuradas Vasanji Road, Marol Naka, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 059 and printed by him at Tritop Art-n-Print, A/57, 1st Floor, Bhandup Industrial Estate, Pannalal Silk Mills Compound, L. B. S. Marg, Bhandup (W), Mumbai - 400 078.



## JATAKA TALES— ELEPHANT STORIES



### THE GREEDY FORESTER\*

THE BODHISATTVA ASSUMED MANY FORMS THROUGH MANY LIFE CYCLES. AND SO IT WAS THAT WHEN BRAHMADATTA REIGNED IN VARANASI, HE WAS BORN AN ELEPHANT IN A FOREST IN THE HIMALAYAS.



IN A GROVE OF DEODAR TREES, THE PROUD MOTHER STOOD, HER NEWBORN BY HER SIDE.

HE'S WHITE ALL OVER AND SHINES LIKE MOLTEN SILVER.

HE LOOKS LIKE A FULL MOON LEANING ON A DARK CLOUD.



\* BASED ON SEELAVA NAGARAJA JATAKA



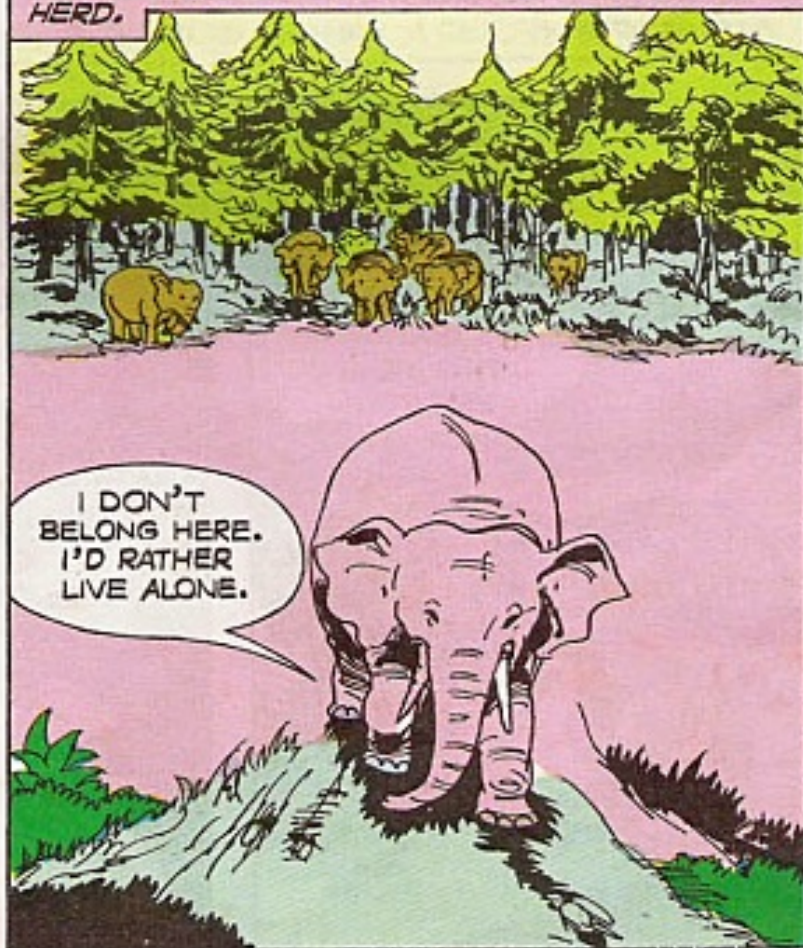
THE ELEPHANT GREW UP IN THE FOREST, WITH OTHER LITTLE ELEPHANTS.



AS HE GREW OLDER, HE NOTICED THAT MOST OF HIS COMPANIONS WERE SELFISH, GREEDY, EVEN CRUEL.



THE WHITE ELEPHANT DECIDED TO LEAVE THE HERD.

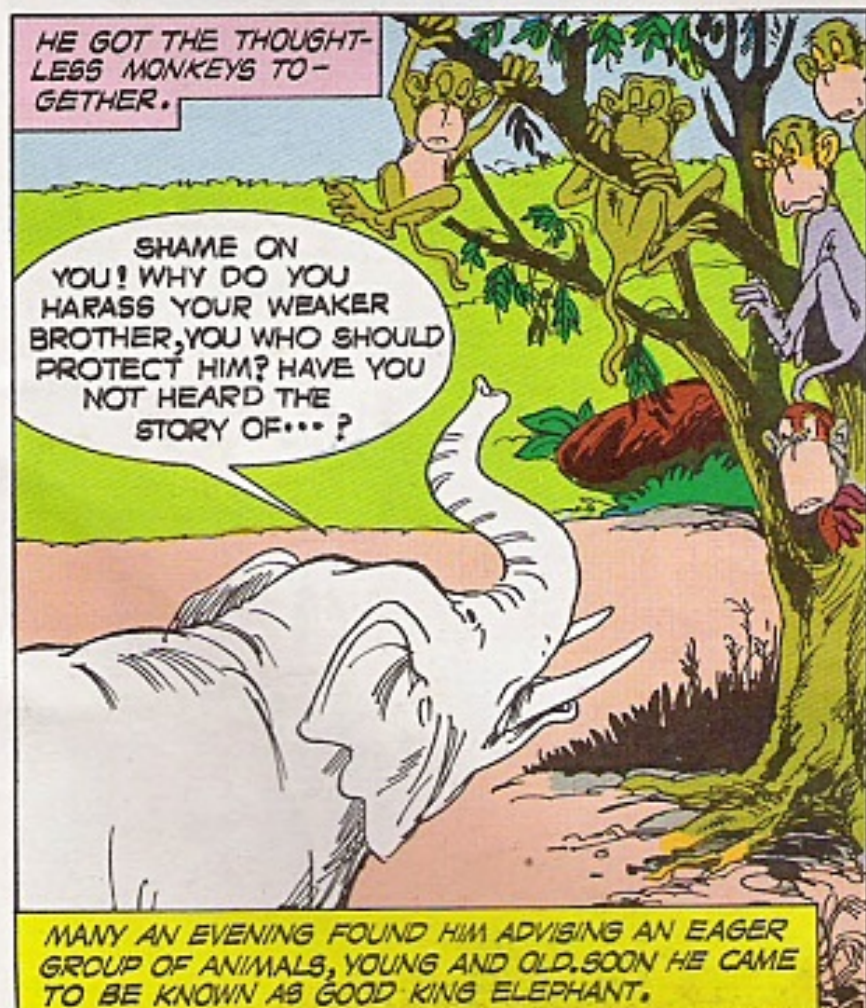




AND SO HE DWELT APART, GIVING HELP AND GOOD COUNSEL WHEN NEEDED. ONE DAY HE SAW A LITTLE MONKEY WEeping.



HE GOT THE THOUGHTLESS MONKEYS TOGETHER.



MANY AN EVENING FOUND HIM ADVISING AN EAGER GROUP OF ANIMALS, YOUNG AND OLD. SOON HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS GOOD KING ELEPHANT.

ONE DAY, A FORESTER FROM VARANASI LOST HIS WAY IN THAT FOREST.





AS THE LIGHT GREW  
FAINTER —



OH! IT WAS  
ONLY A SHADOW.  
HOW FOOLISH  
OF ME!

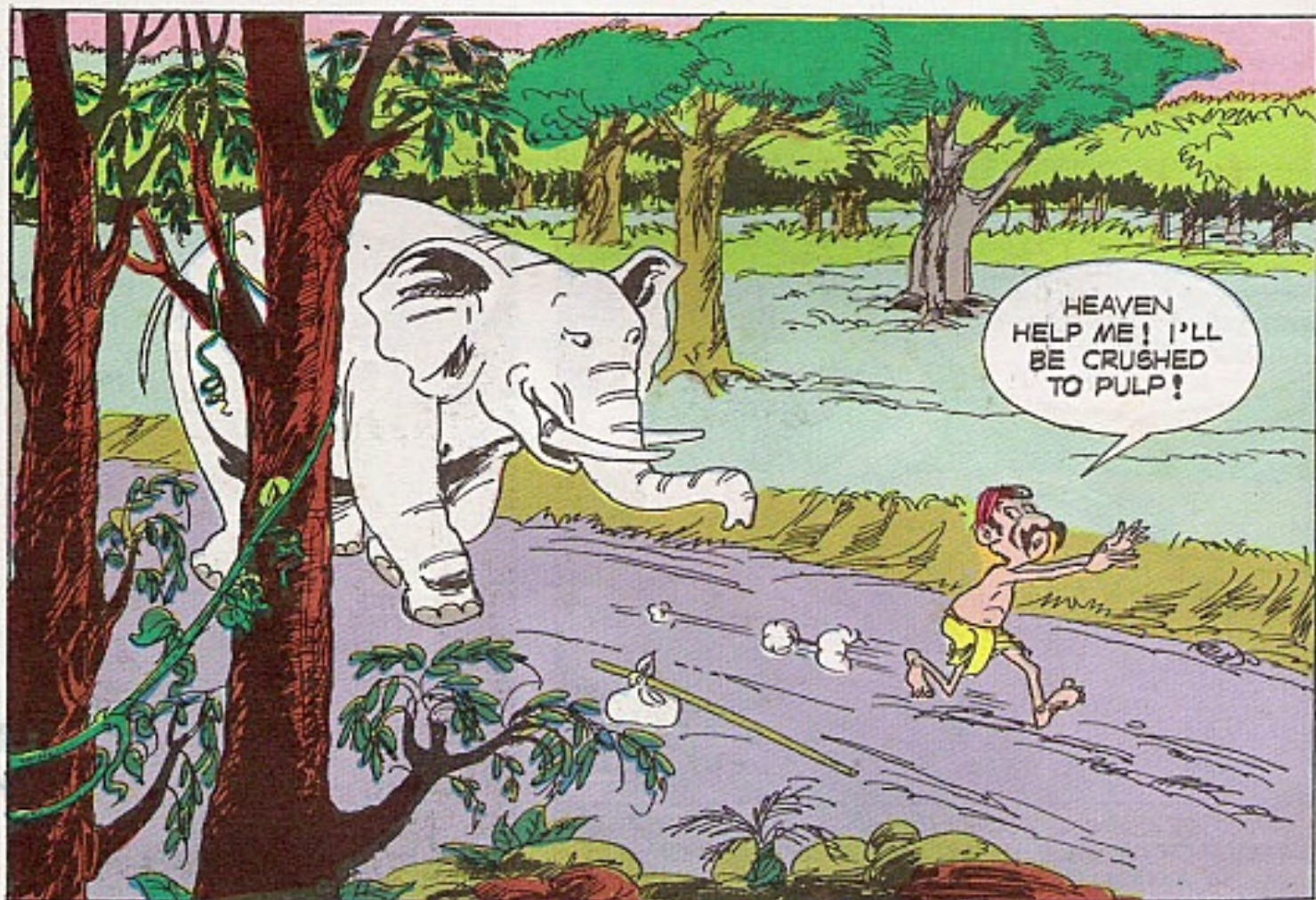


GATHERING COURAGE, HE WALKED ON.  
SUDDENLY —

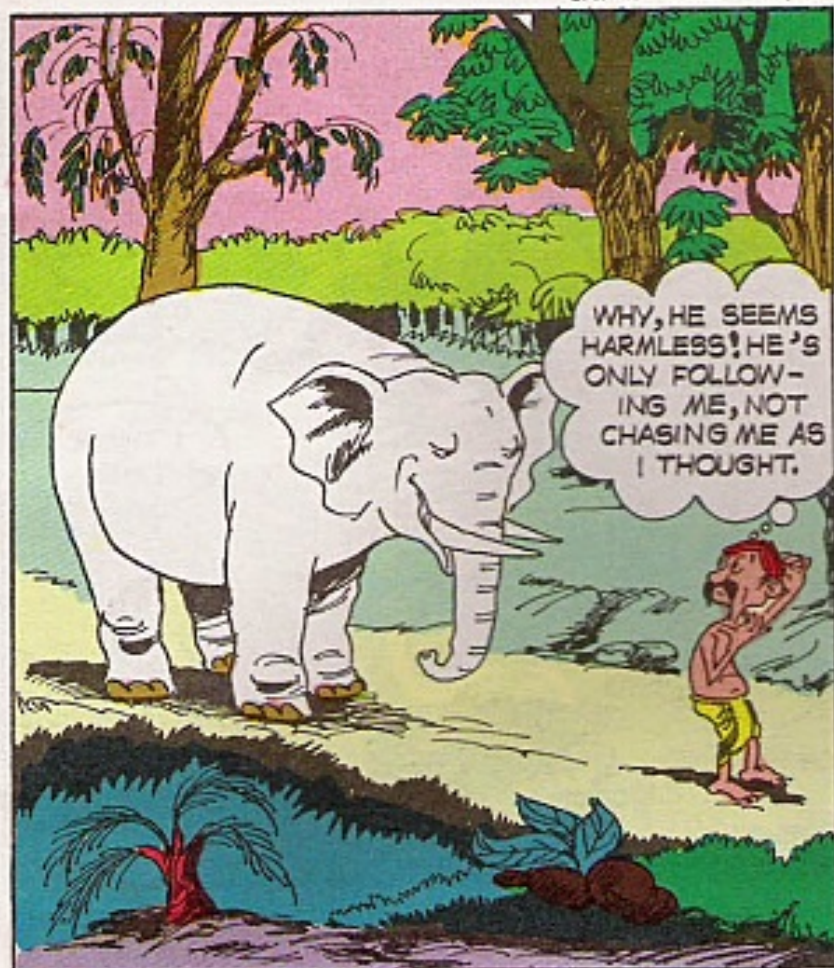
AN ELEPHANT!  
I'M AS GOOD  
AS DEAD!



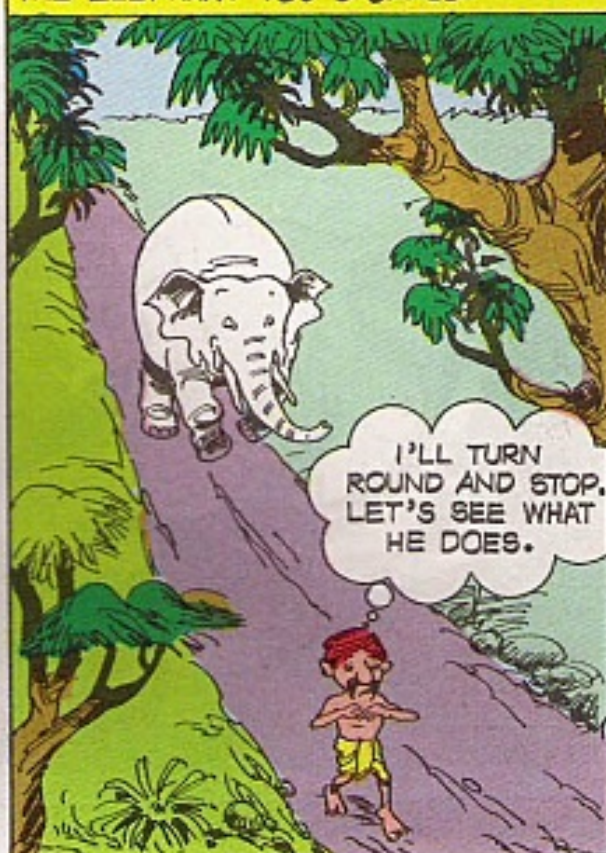
HEAVEN  
HELP ME! I'LL  
BE CRUSHED  
TO PULP!



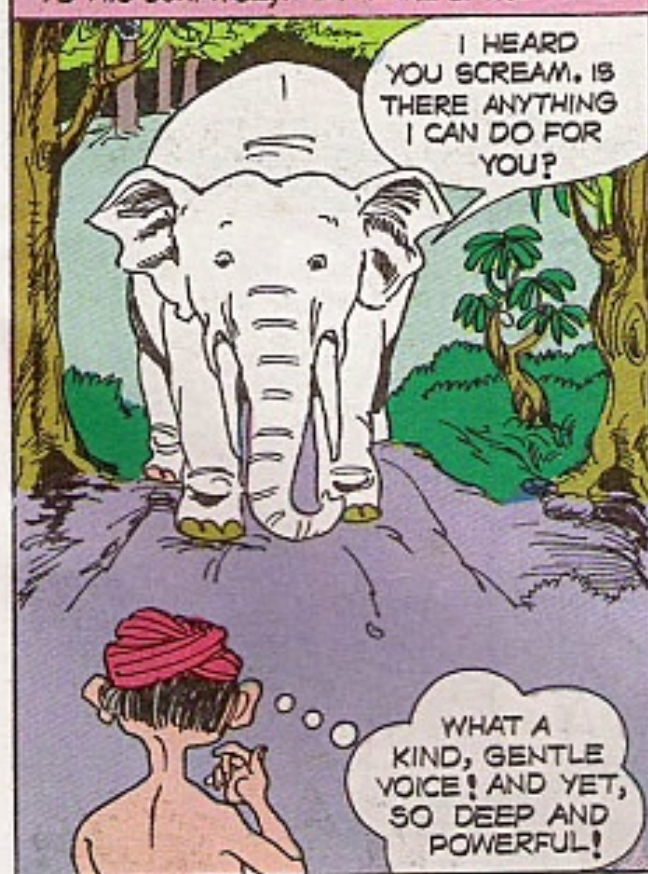




EVERY TIME HE MOVED, THE ELEPHANT FOLLOWED. EVERY TIME HE STOPPED THE ELEPHANT TOO STOPPED.

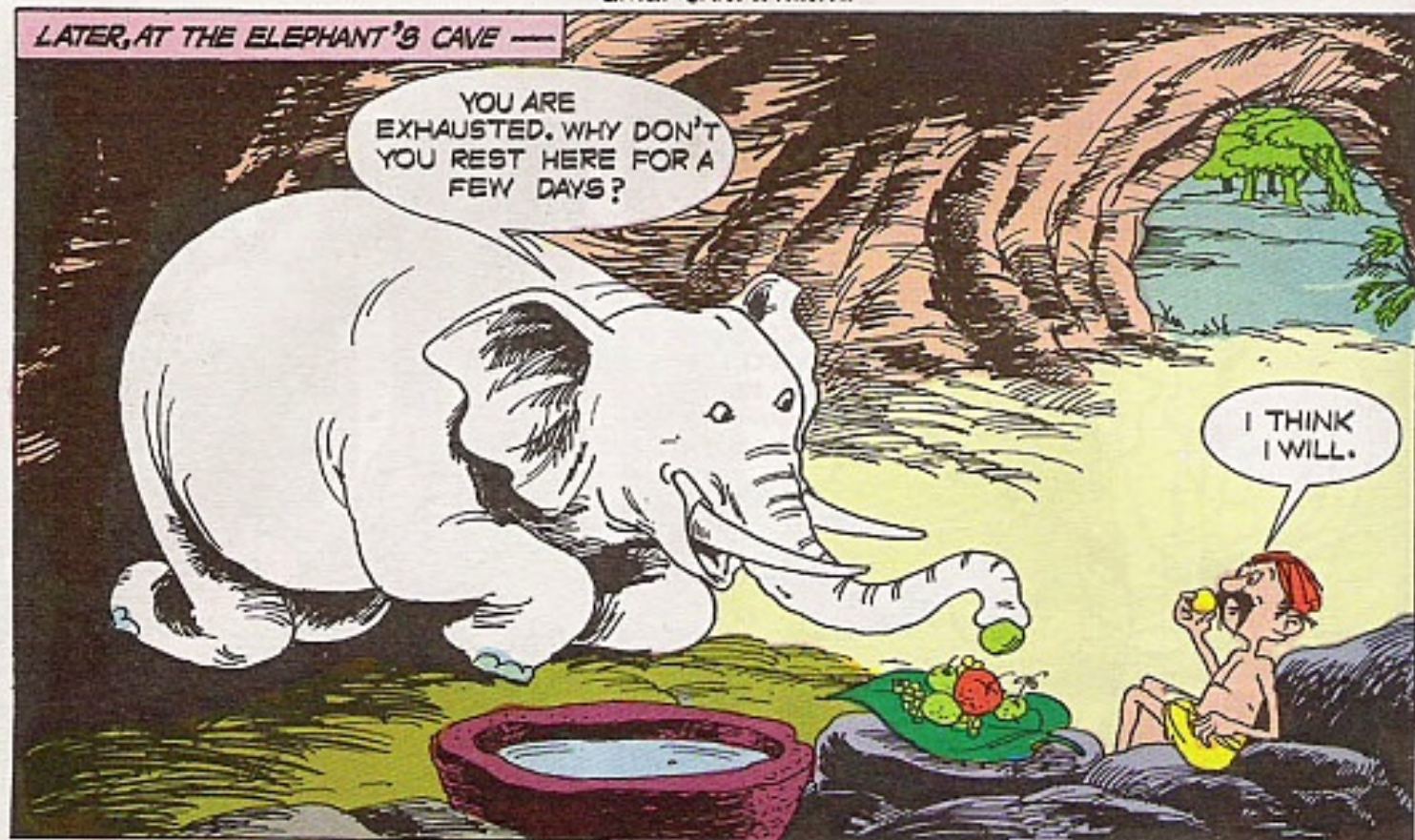


TO HIS SURPRISE, THE ANIMAL SPOKE TO HIM





LATER, AT THE ELEPHANT'S CAVE —



THE ELEPHANT'S DAY BEGAN EARLY.

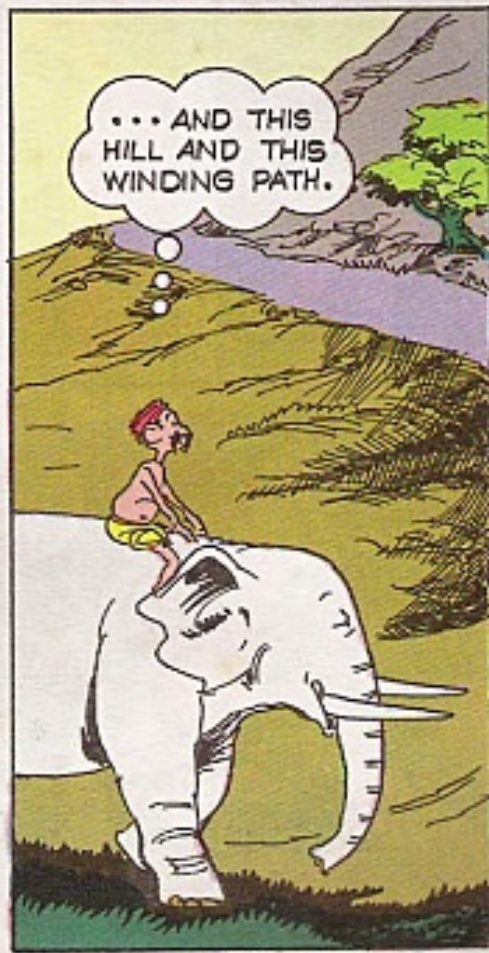
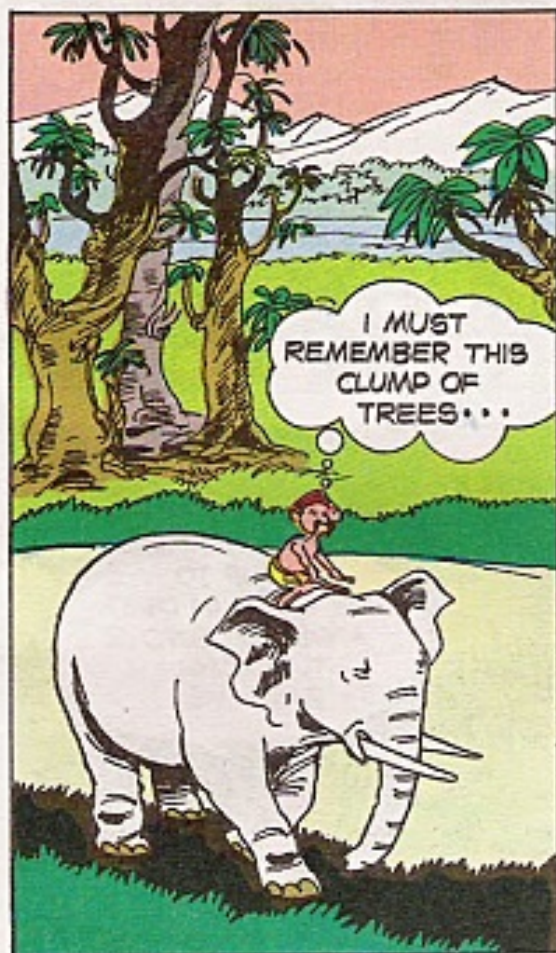
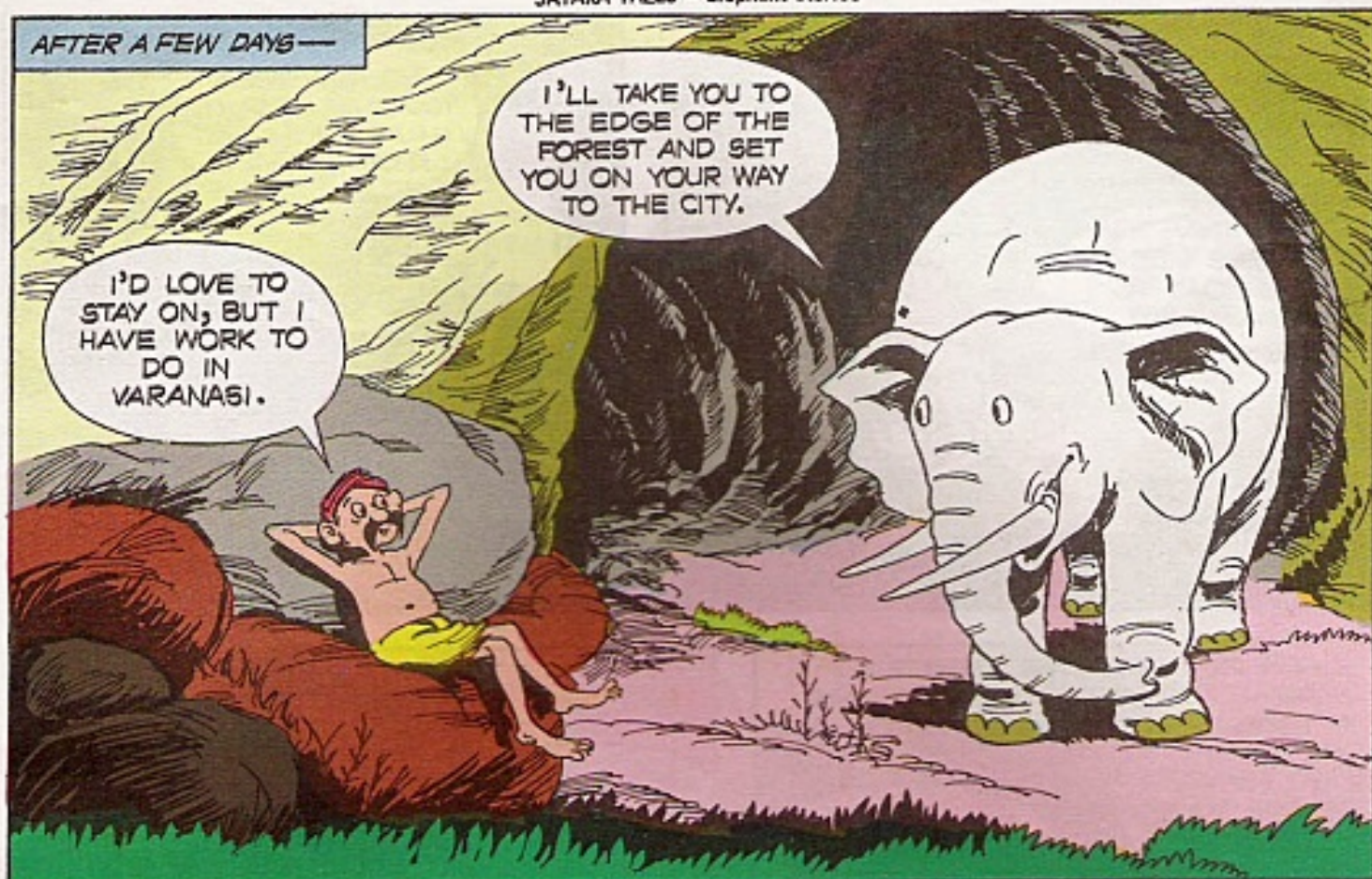


IN THE EVENING THEY WALKED TO A CLEARING IN THE FOREST.





AFTER A FEW DAYS —

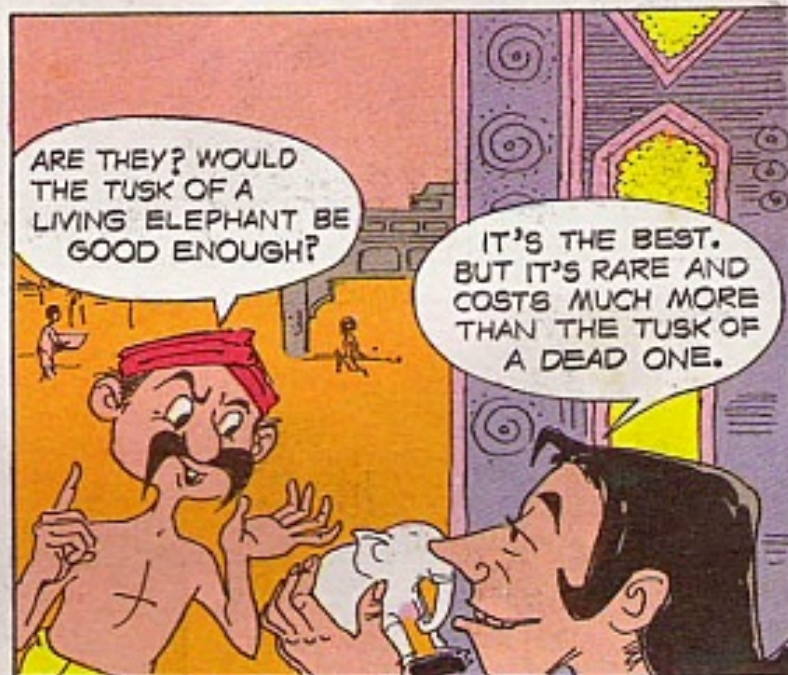




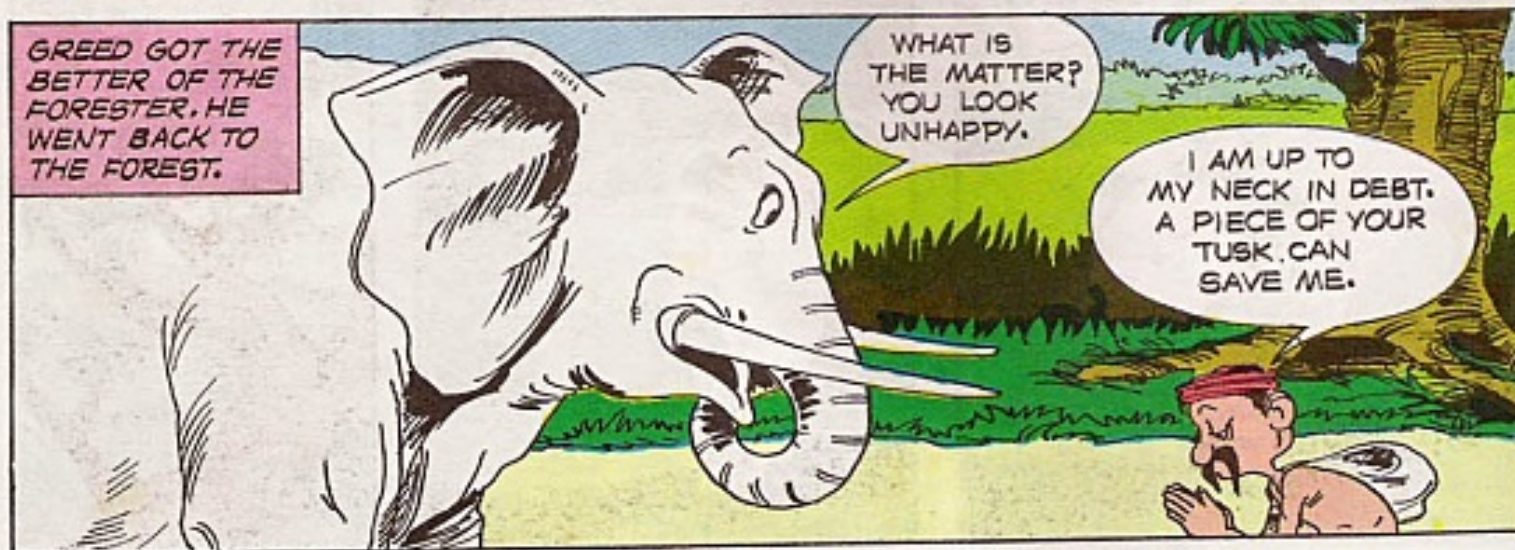
AT THE EDGE OF THE FOREST, HE DISMOUNTED.



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE FORESTER HAPPENED TO VISIT THE IVORY BAZAAR AT VARANASI.

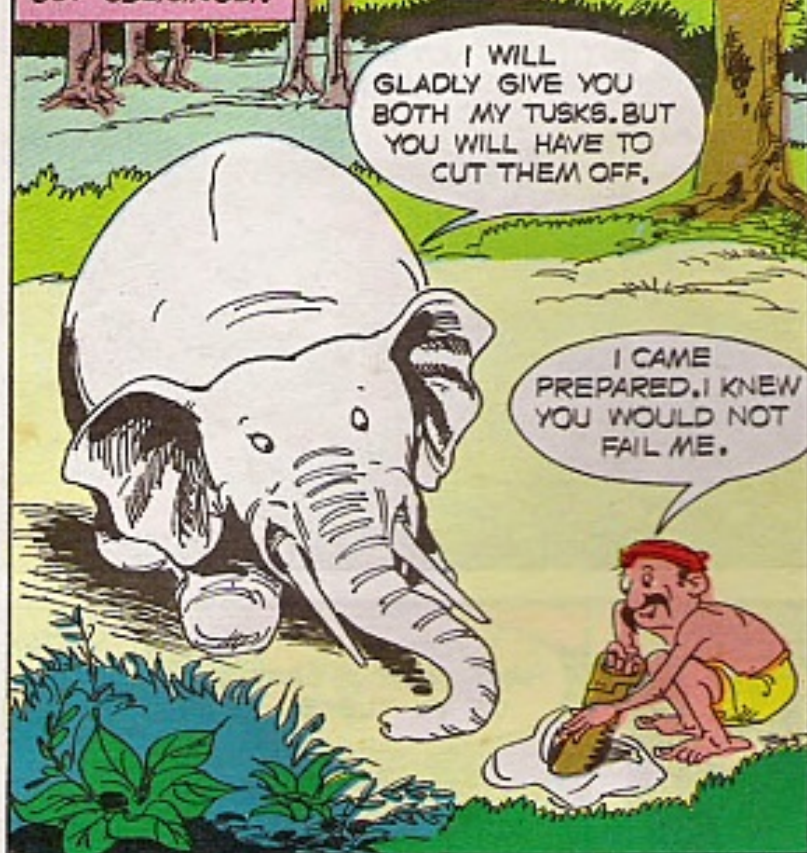


GREED GOT THE BETTER OF THE FORESTER. HE WENT BACK TO THE FOREST.

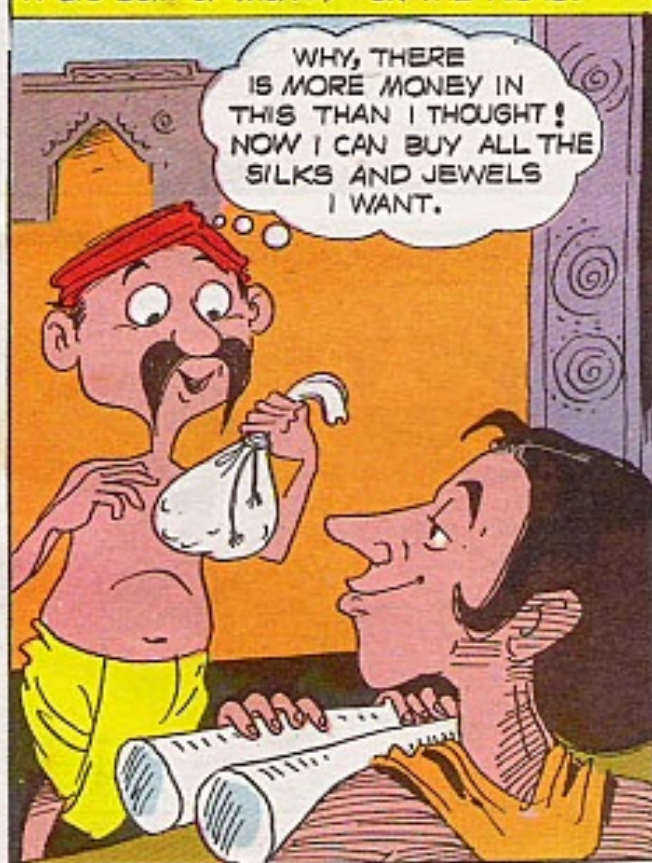




THE ELEPHANT SAT DOWN AND HELD HIS TRUNK OUT OBLIGINGLY.



BACK IN VARANASI, THE FORESTER RECEIVED A BIG SUM OF MONEY FOR THE TUSKS.



A MONTH LATER —





THAT NIGHT THE FORESTER COULD NOT SLEEP.



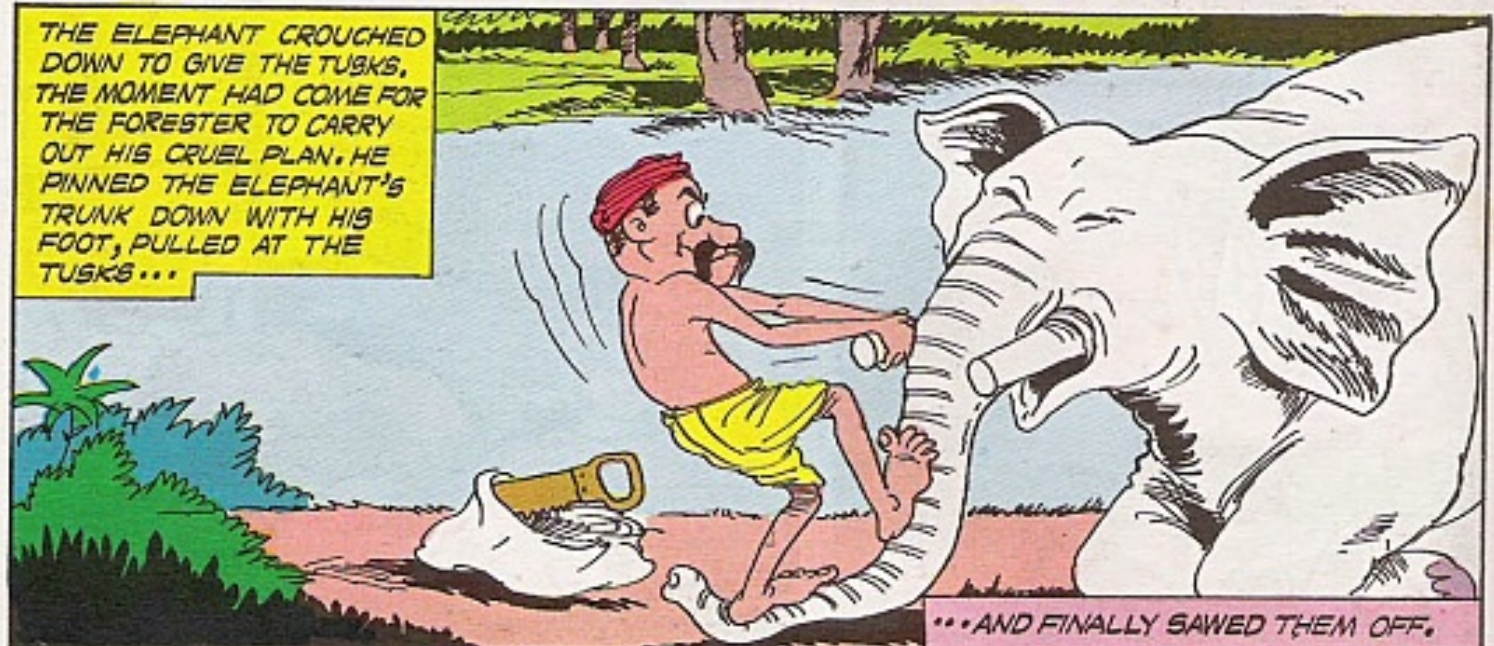
SO BACK HE WENT TO THE ELEPHANT. GREED HAD HARDENED HIS HEART.



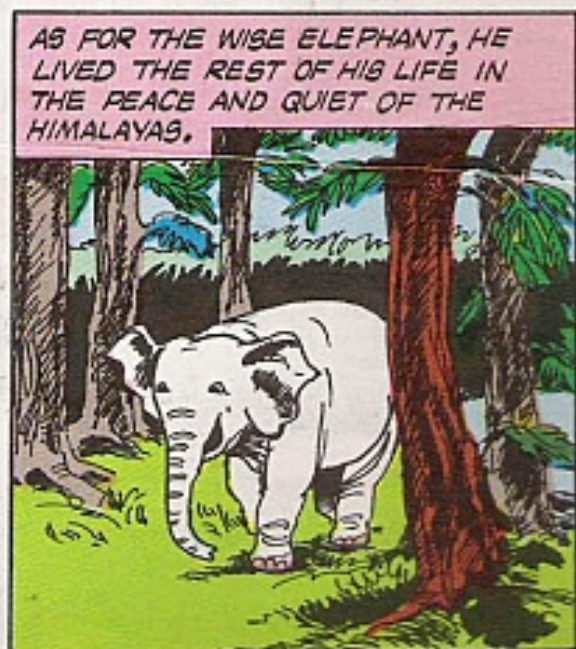
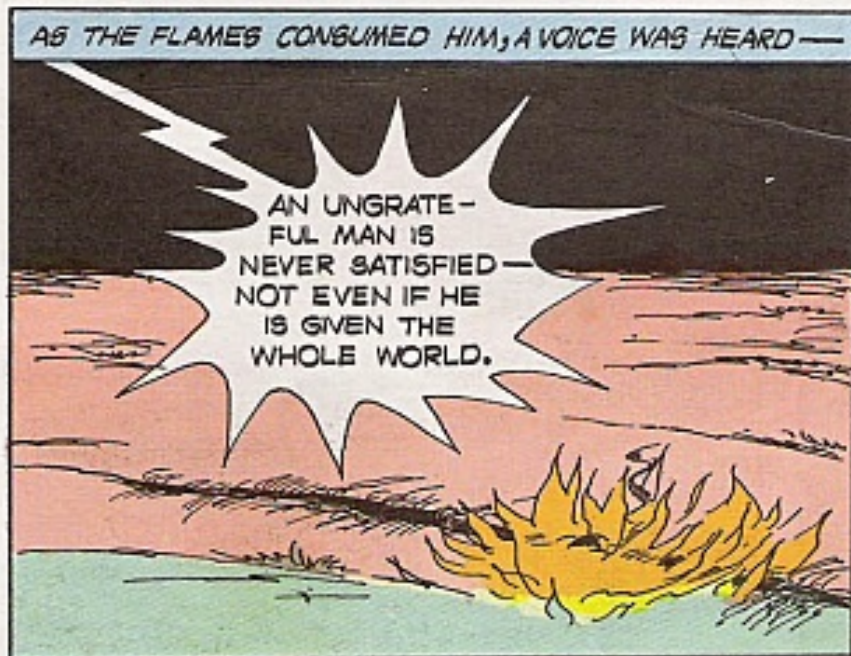
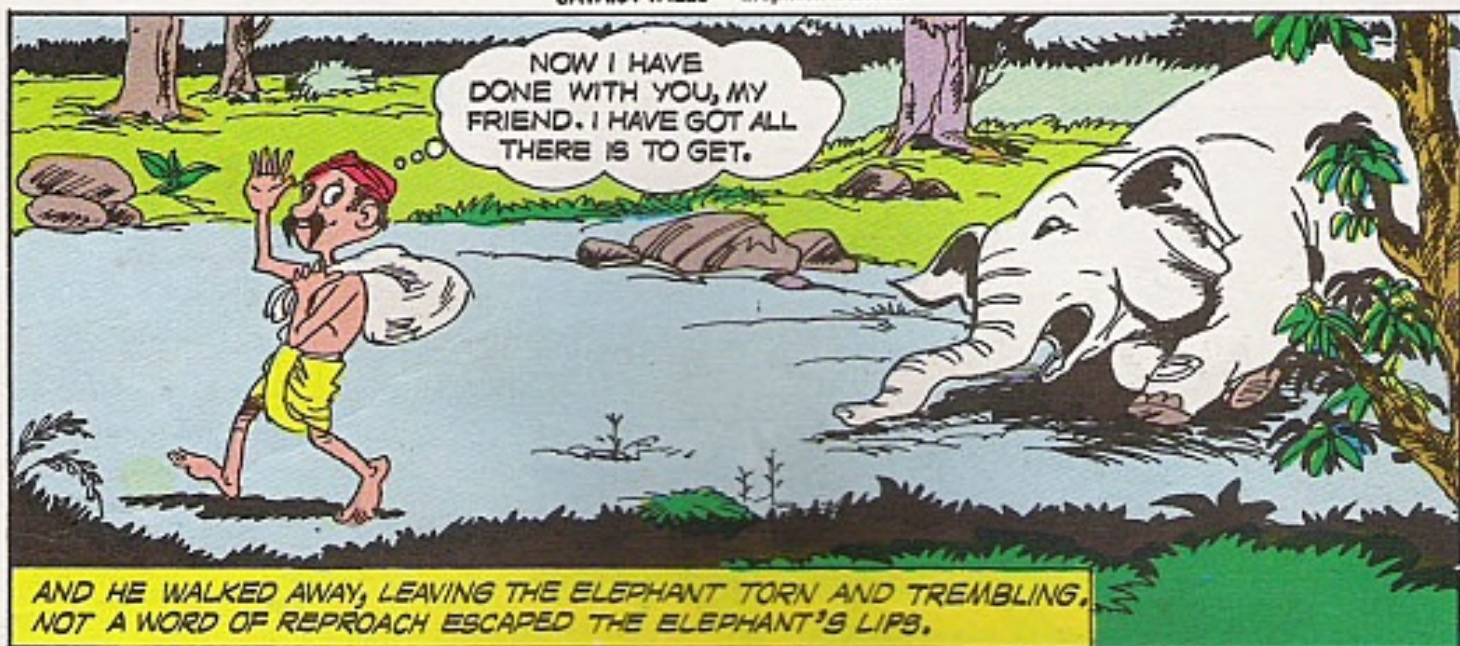
YOU MAY HAVE WHAT IS LEFT OF MY TUSKS.



THE ELEPHANT CROUCHED DOWN TO GIVE THE TUSKS. THE MOMENT HAD COME FOR THE FORESTER TO CARRY OUT HIS CRUEL PLAN. HE PINNED THE ELEPHANT'S TRUNK DOWN WITH HIS FOOT, PULLED AT THE TUSKS...

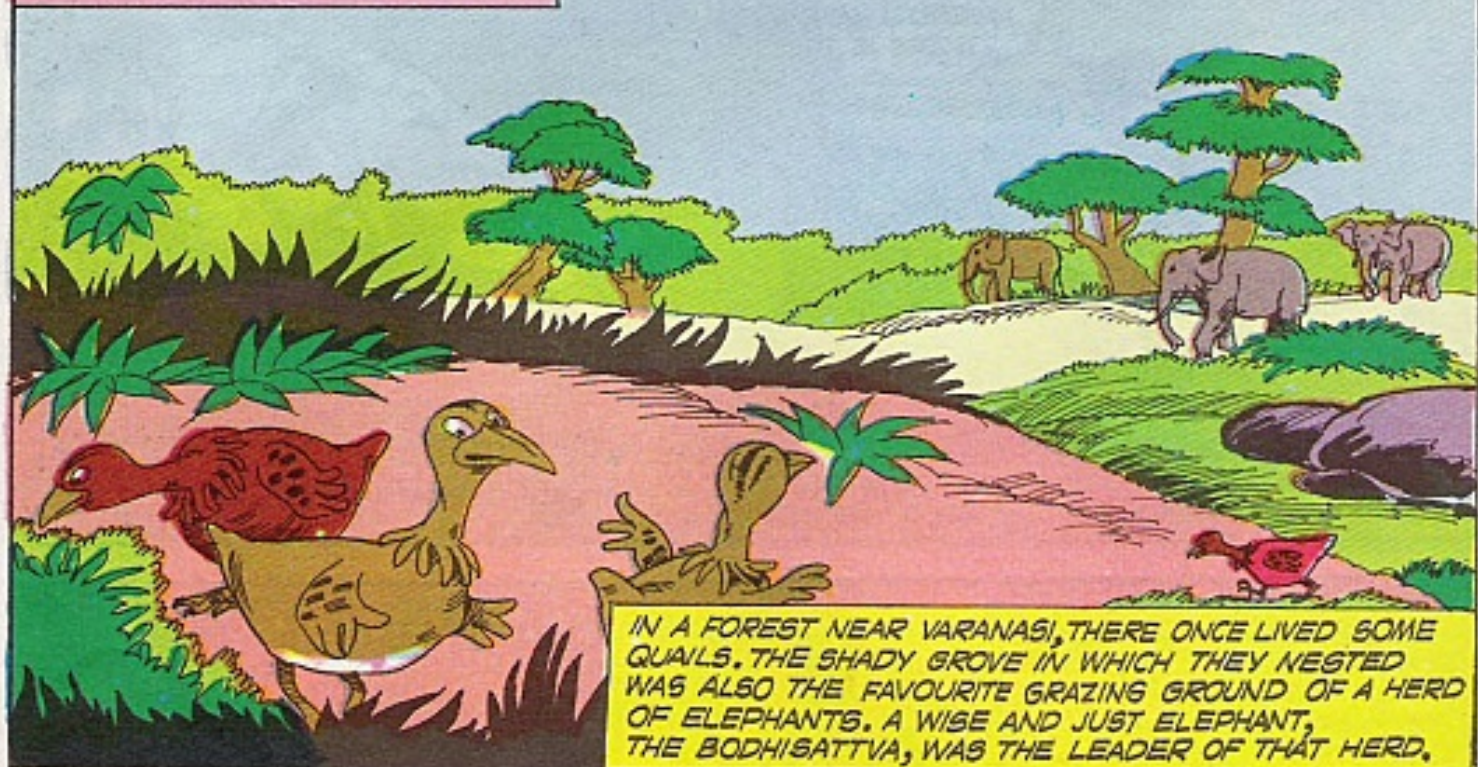




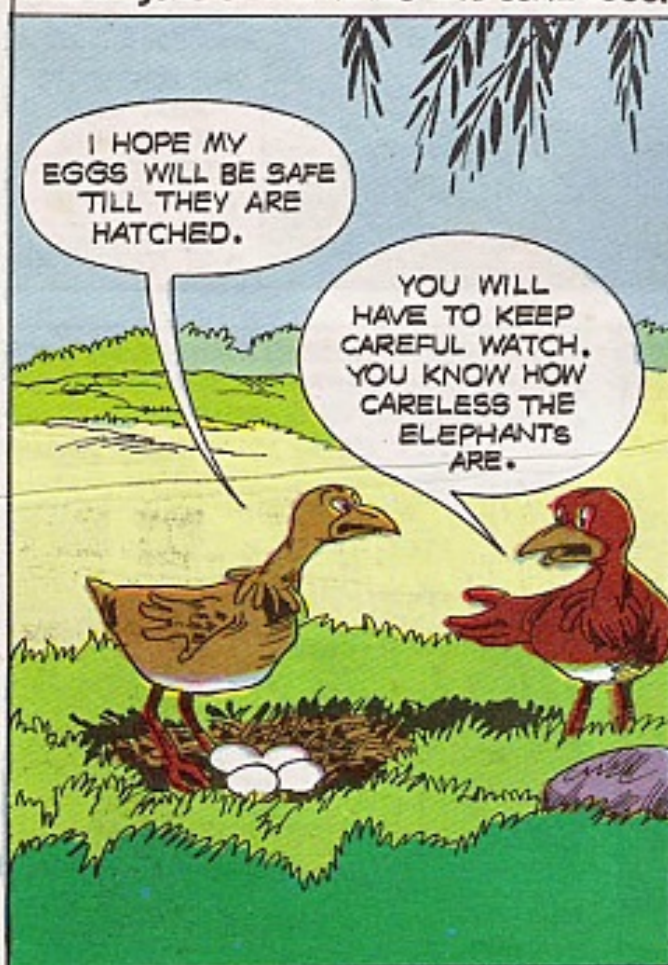




# THE BRAVE QUAIL\*



ONE DAY, ONE OF THE QUAILS LAID SOME EGGS.



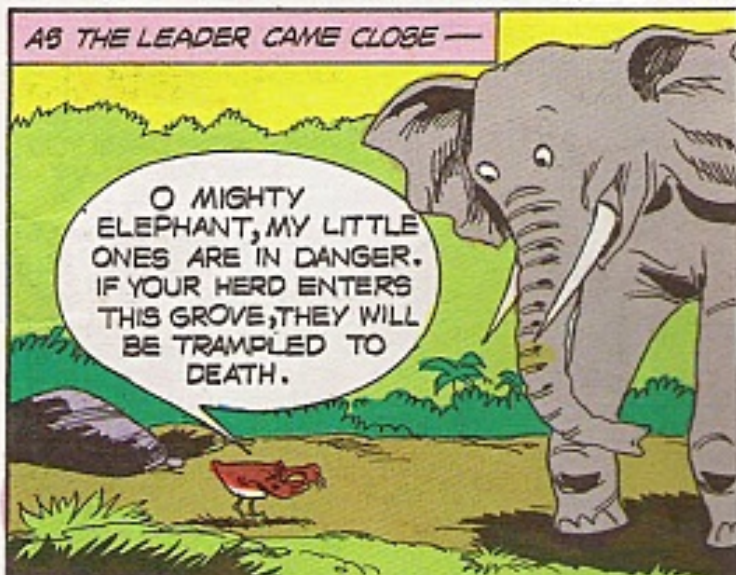
SOON THE FLEDGLINGS WERE HATCHED. ONE DAY—



\* BASED ON LATUKIKA JATAKA

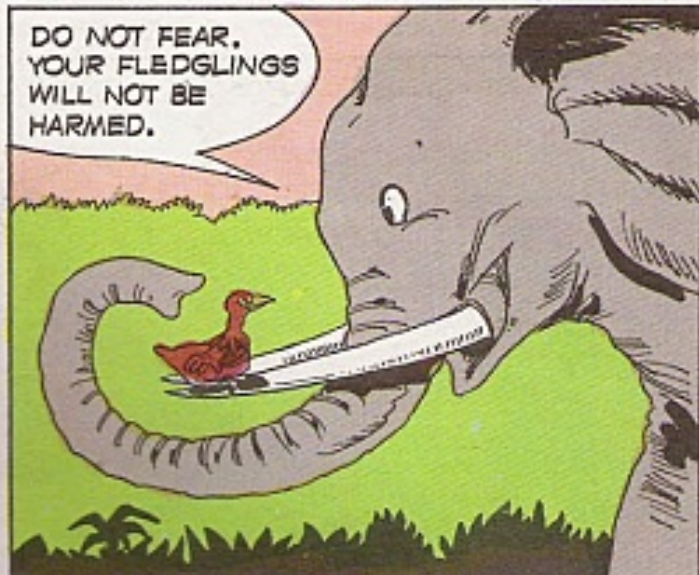


AS THE LEADER CAME CLOSE —



O MIGHTY ELEPHANT, MY LITTLE ONES ARE IN DANGER. IF YOUR HERD ENTERS THIS GROVE, THEY WILL BE TRAMPLED TO DEATH.

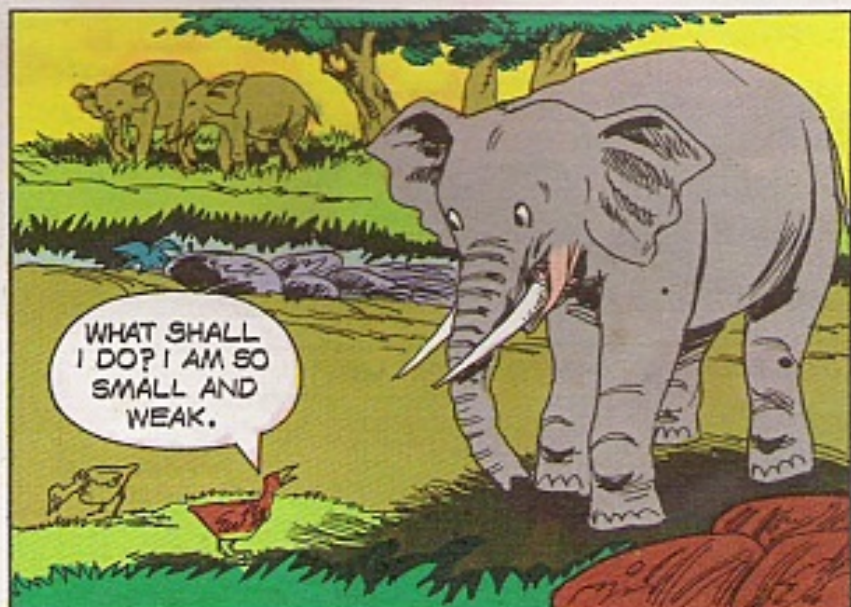
DO NOT FEAR. YOUR FLEDGLINGS WILL NOT BE HARMED.



THE ELEPHANT STOOD OVER THE NEST WHILE HIS HERD GRAZED. WHEN THEY HAD HAD THEIR FILL —

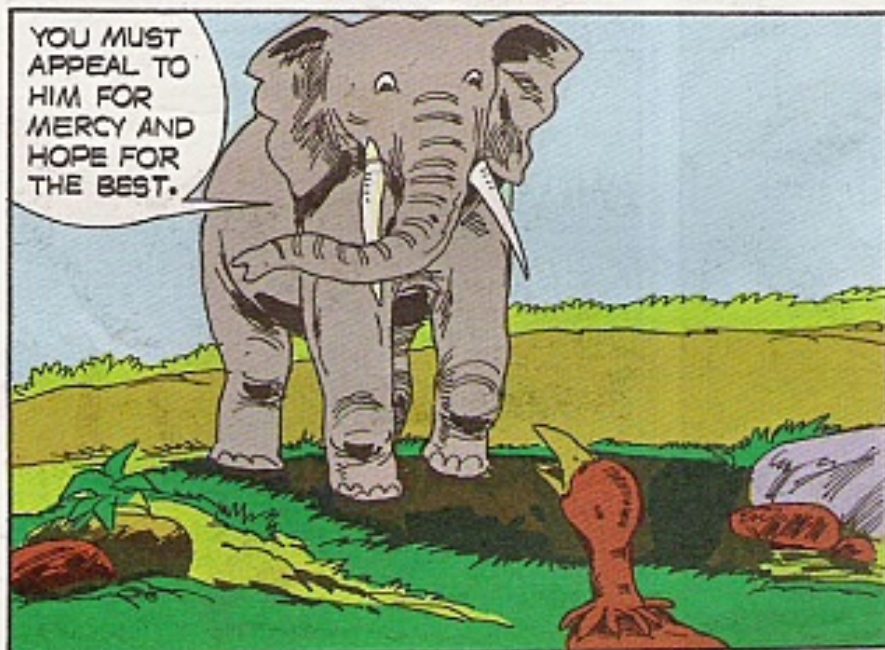


THERE IS A ROGUE-ELEPHANT, A WILD AND DANGEROUS ANIMAL, WHO MIGHT SOON BE COMING THIS WAY.



WHAT SHALL I DO? I AM SO SMALL AND WEAK.

YOU MUST APPEAL TO HIM FOR MERCY AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.



SOON AFTER THE ELEPHANTS HAD GONE —

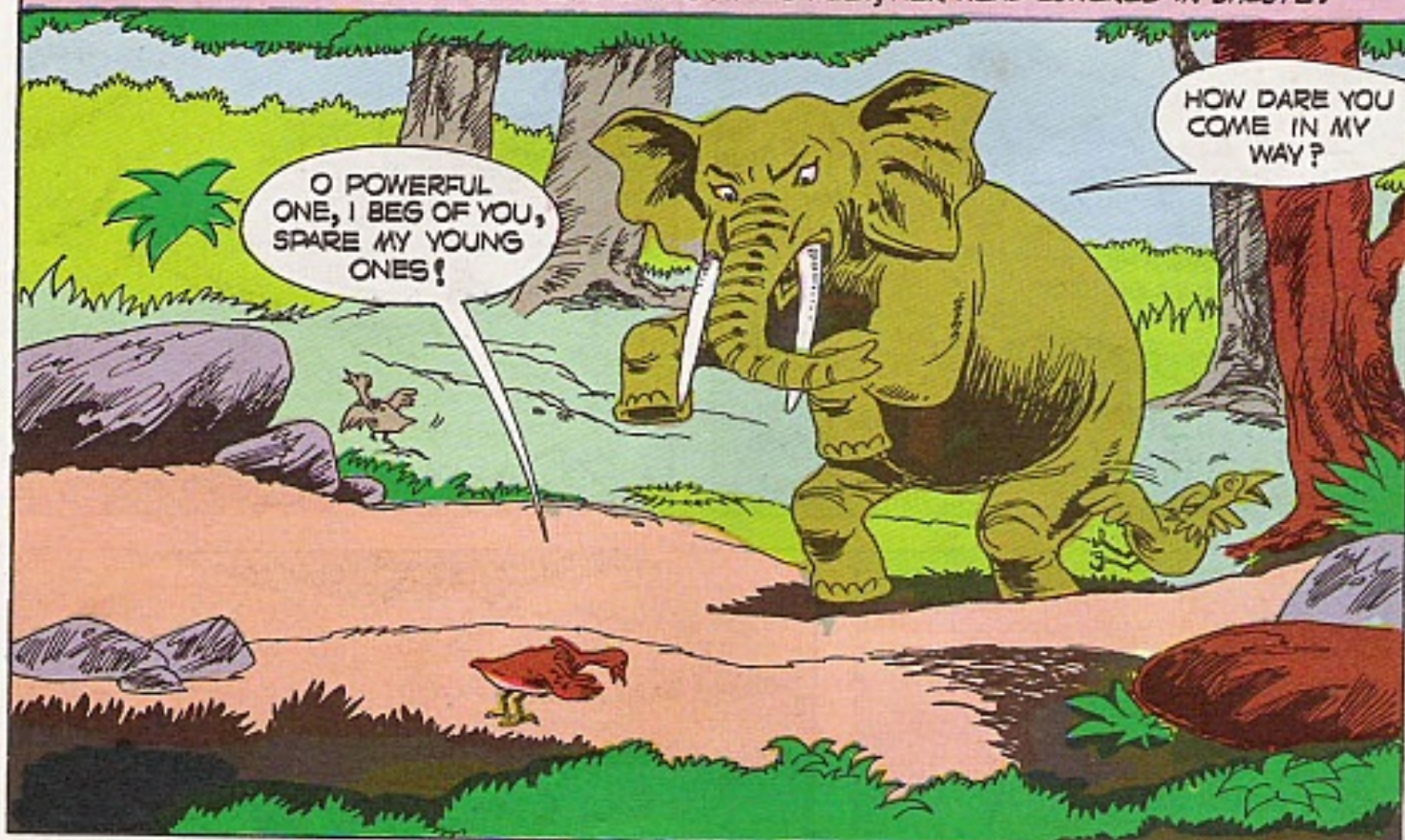


THE ROGUE-ELEPHANT!

HE LOOKS FIERCE!



THE MOTHER QUAIL WASTED NO TIME, SHE WAS AT HIS FEET, HER HEAD LOWERED IN SALUTE.



THE ELEPHANT LASHED AT THE NEST.

THERE! THAT IS THE END OF YOUR SILLY BROOD.

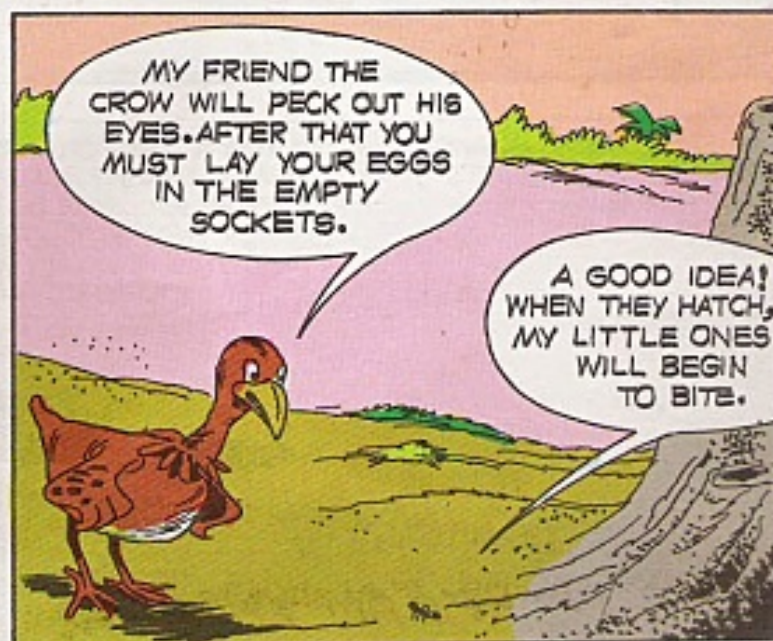
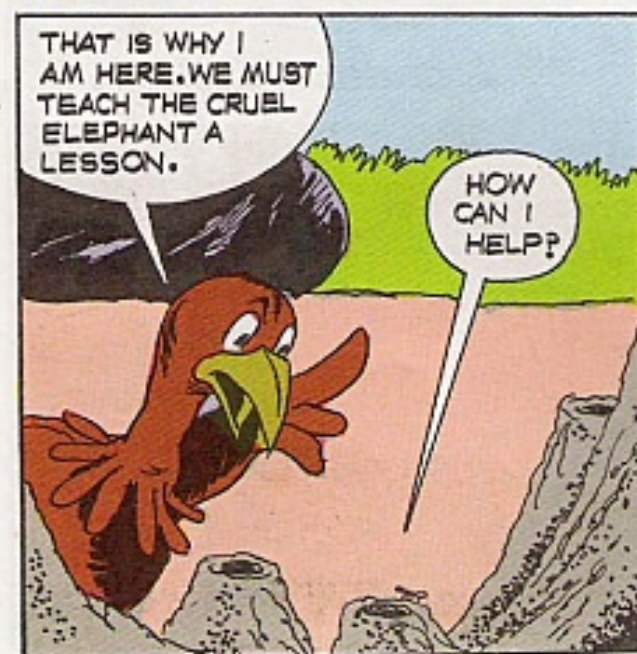
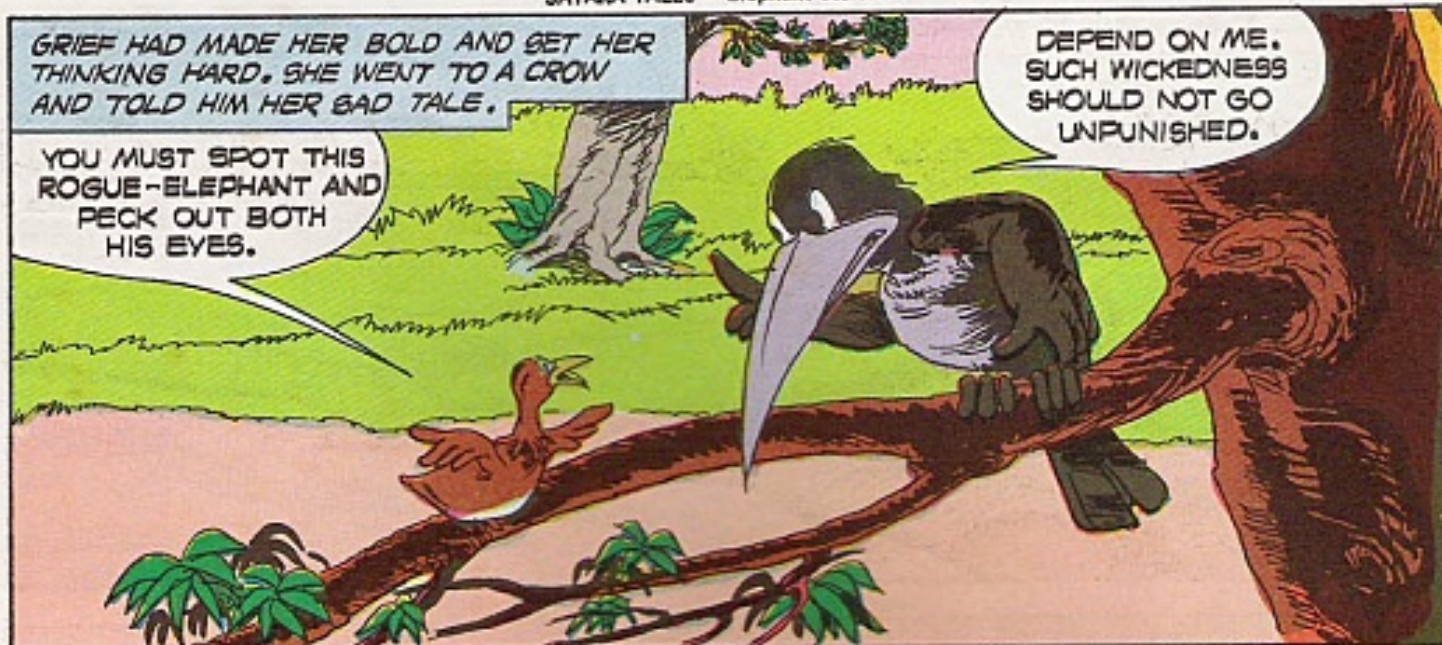


AS THE QUAIL WEPT OVER THE REMAINS OF HER DEAD CHILDREN—

I WILL SOON SHOW YOU HOW STRONG I AM!







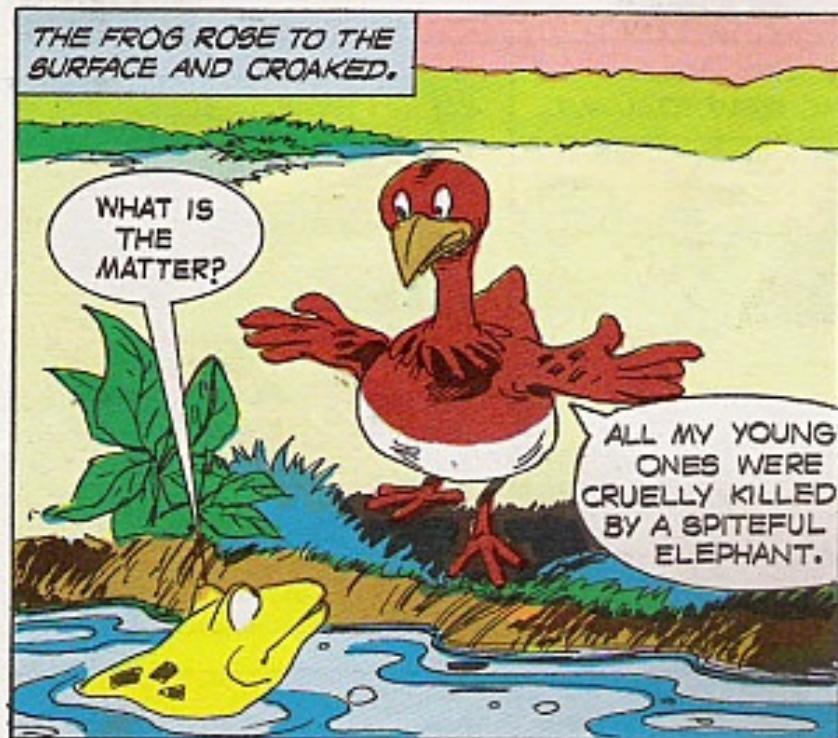


THE QUAIL THEN WENT TO THE FROG.



DEAR FRIEND,  
LEAVE EVERYTHING  
AND COME OUT!

THE FROG ROSE TO THE  
SURFACE AND CROAKED.



WHAT IS  
THE  
MATTER?

ALL MY YOUNG  
ONES WERE  
CRUELLY KILLED  
BY A SPITEFUL  
ELEPHANT.

I AM TRYING  
TO GET MY FRIENDS  
TO HELP ME  
PUNISH HIM.

YOU CAN  
COUNT  
ON ME.



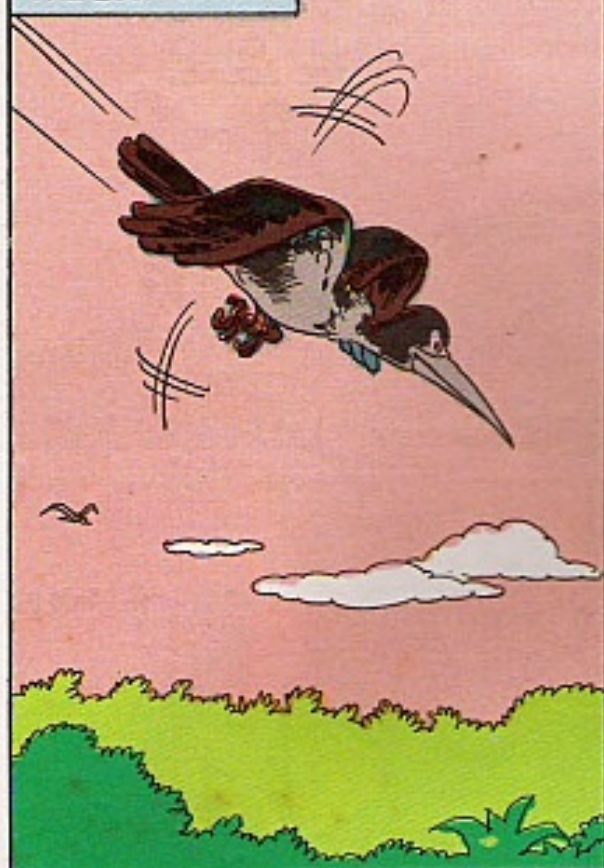
AS THEY WENT ALONG,  
THE QUAIL UNFOLDED  
HER PLANS.

... WHEN THE ANTS HATCH, THE  
ROGUE-ELEPHANT WILL BE BADLY  
STUNG. HE WILL RUN BLINDLY, LOOK-  
ING FOR WATER TO EASE HIS PAIN.  
THIS IS WHAT I WANT  
YOU TO DO...





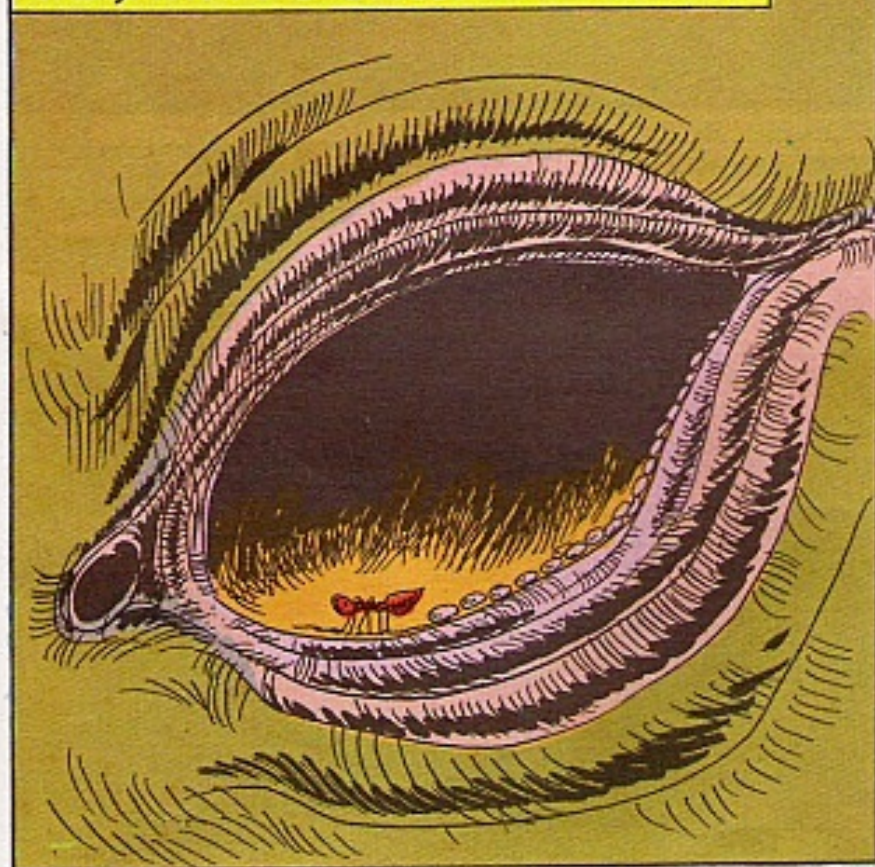
A LITTLE LATER, THE CROW DARTED AT THE ELEPHANT...



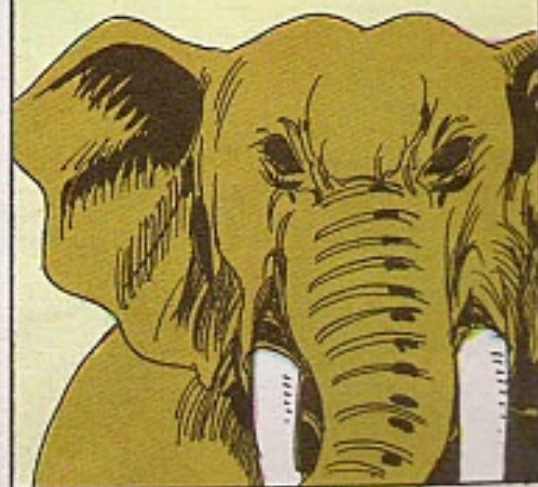
... PLUCKED HIS EYES OUT AND FLEW AWAY.



THEN, THE ANT LAID HER EGGS IN HIS BLIND EYES.



A-A-AH!  
MY EYES ARE  
ON FIRE. WATER!  
I NEED WATER!





JUST THEN THE FROG CROAKED  
FROM A STEEP PRECIPICE CLOSE BY.



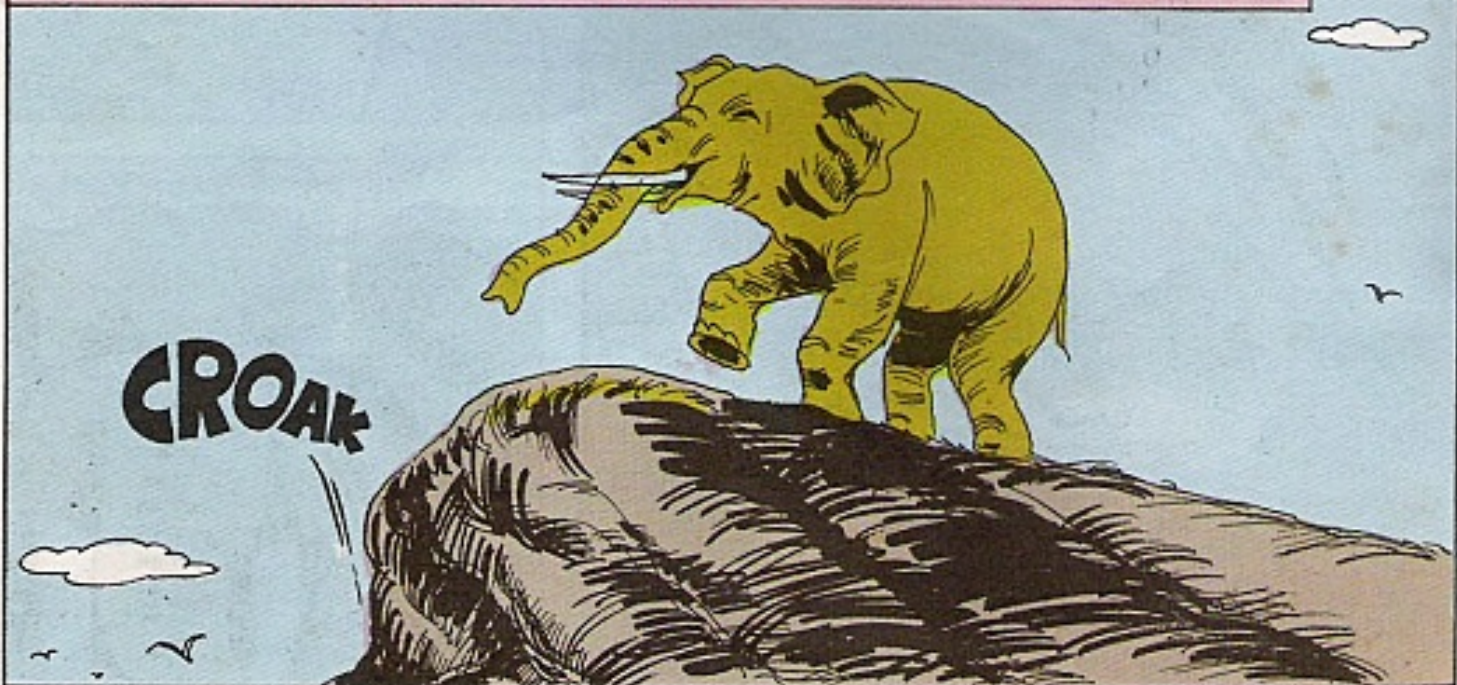
THE CROAK OF A  
FROG! THERE MUST  
BE WATER NEAR BY.  
I'LL FOLLOW  
THE SOUND.



AS THE ELEPHANT GOT TO THE EDGE OF THE PRECIPICE ...



... THE FROG LEAPT ONTO A NARROW LEDGE BELOW AND CROAKED WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.





THE ELEPHANT FOLLOWED THE SOUND AND WENT HURLING DOWN TO HIS DEATH.



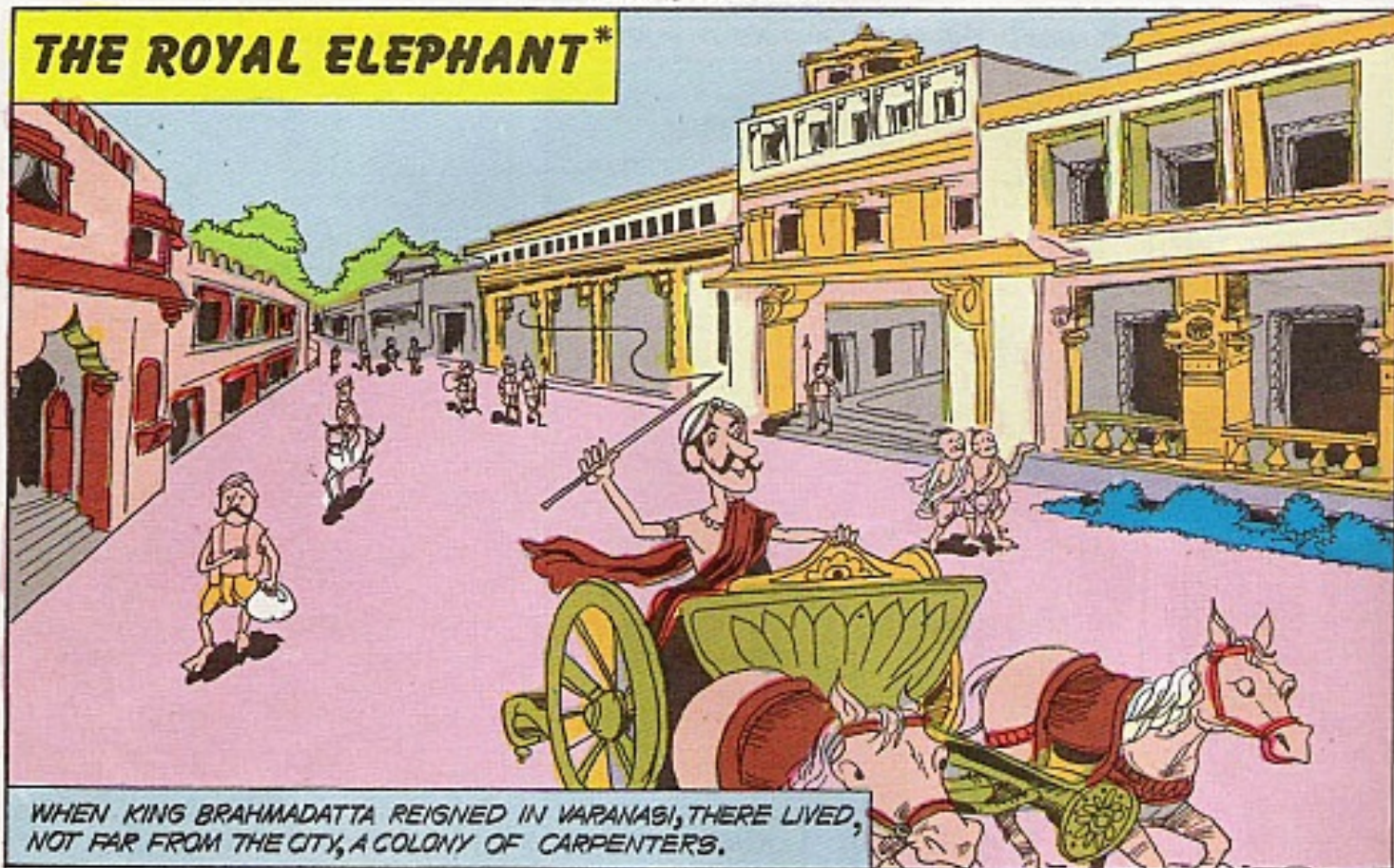
WHEN THE CROW, THE ANT, THE FROG AND THE QUAIL MET LATER —

I HOPE THE STORY OF THE ELEPHANT WILL BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO ALL STRONG CREATURES WHO HARM THE WEAK AND THE HELPLESS.

DONGRE



# THE ROYAL ELEPHANT\*

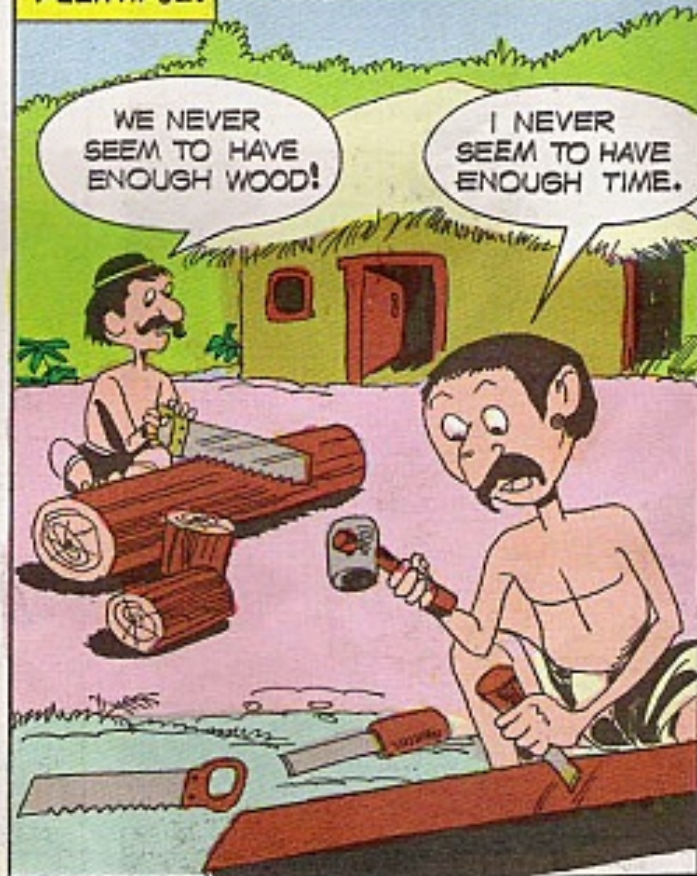


WHEN KING BRAHMADATTA REIGNED IN VARANASI, THERE LIVED, NOT FAR FROM THE CITY, A COLONY OF CARPENTERS.

EVERY DAY THEY WOULD SAIL DOWN THE RIVER AND ENTER A DENSE FOREST TO FELL TREES FOR TIMBER.



THUS THEY MOVED FROM FOREST TO VILLAGE AND BACK AGAIN. WORK WAS PLentiful.



WE NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ENOUGH WOOD!

I NEVER SEEM TO HAVE ENOUGH TIME.



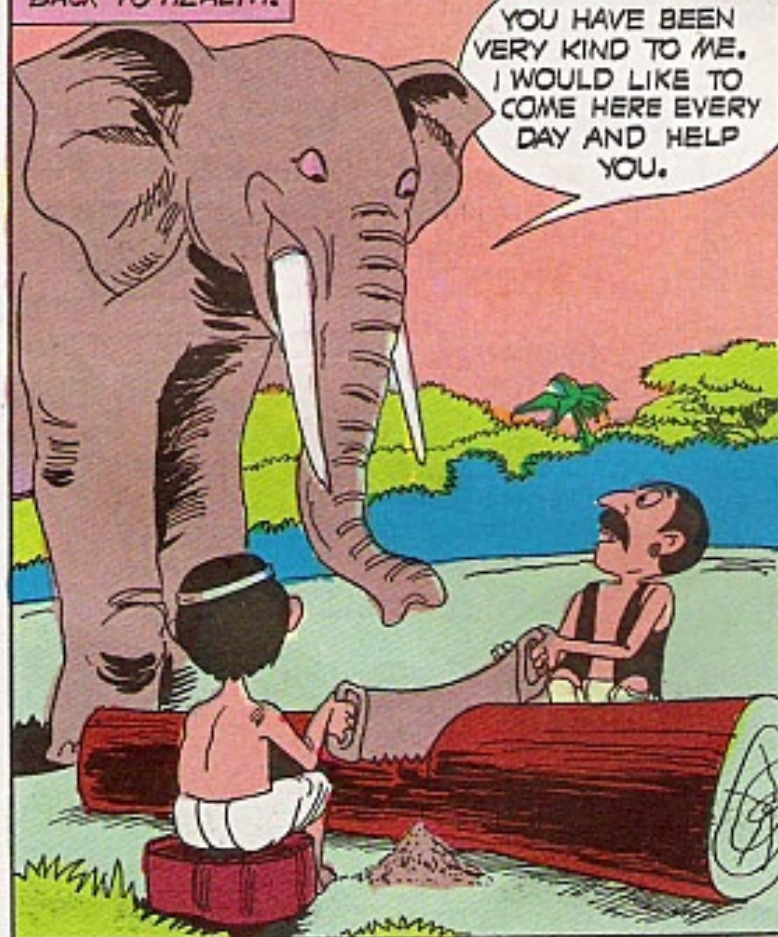
ONE DAY, AS THEY SAT DOWN TO THEIR MIDDAY MEAL, THEY SAW AN ELEPHANT.



THE ELEPHANT CAME UP TO THE CARPENTERS AND HELD OUT A FOOT.



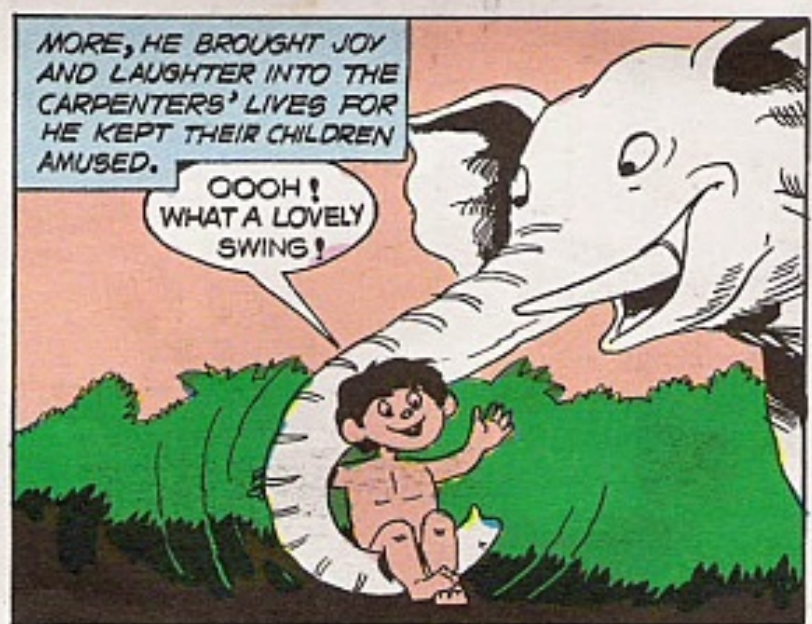
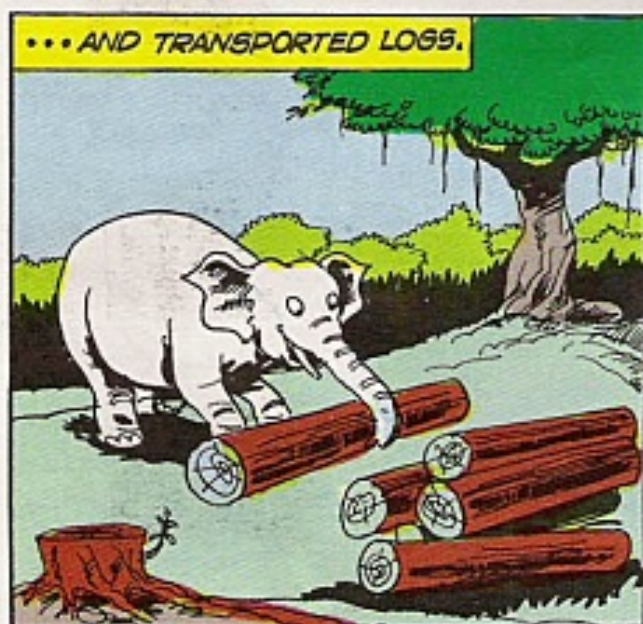
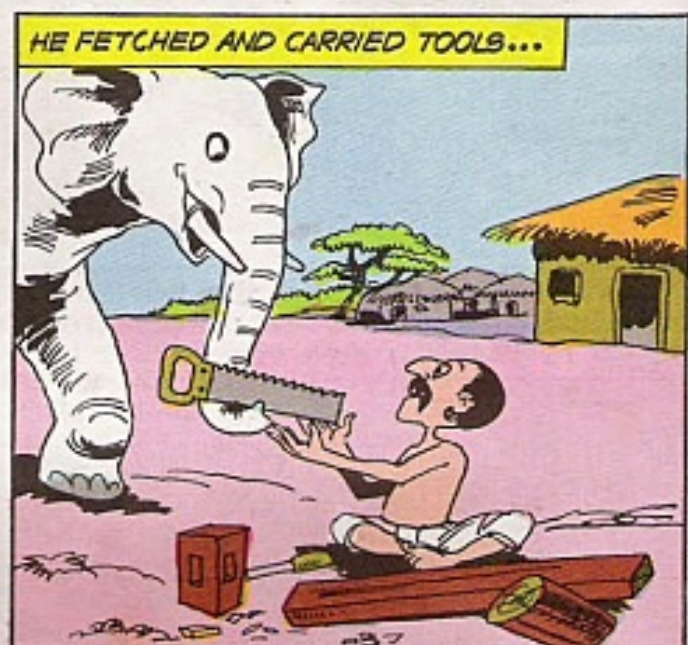
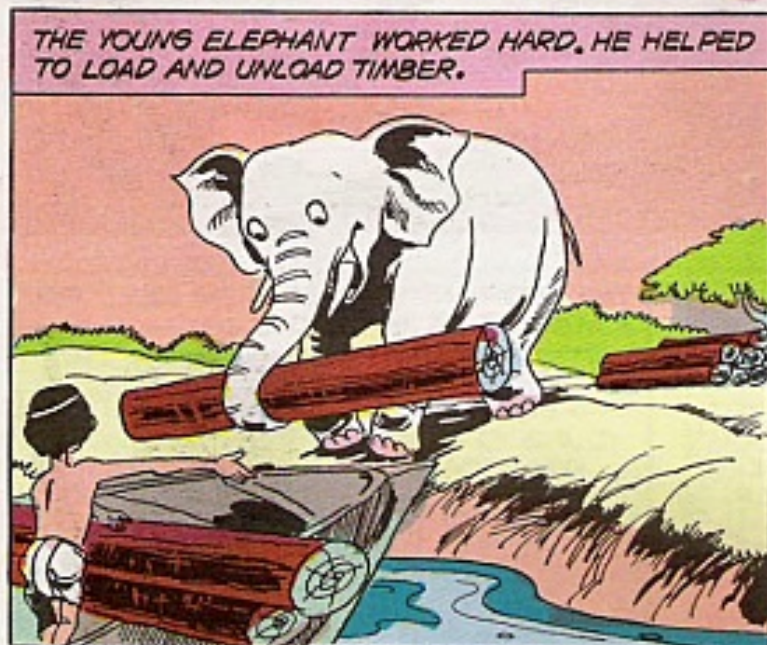
THEY REMOVED THE SPLINTER, BATHED AND DRESSED THE WOUND AND NURSED THE FOOT BACK TO HEALTH.



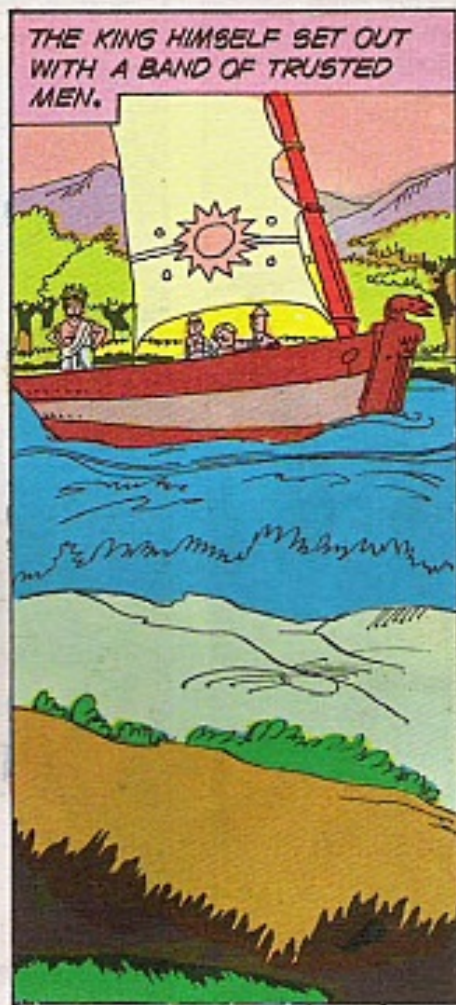
THE ELEPHANT SERVED THEM WELL FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. ONE DAY —













SOON —



WHEN THE KING AND HIS PARTY DREW NEARER —



THE ELEPHANT SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP HIS FRIENDS.





THE KING TURNED TO HIS MEN.

PAY THEM A HUNDRED THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD FOR HIS TAIL, THE SAME FOR HIS TRUNK AND FOR EACH OF HIS FOUR FEET.



THE ELEPHANT WAS NOT SATISFIED.

YOU MUST NOT THINK ME GREEDY, YOUR MAJESTY. THEY NEED CLOTHES. AND THE CHILDREN TOO MUST BE PROVIDED FOR.

WE ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY. WE SHALL MORE THAN SATISFY YOU.



UPON RECEIVING THIS ASSURANCE THE ELEPHANT AGREED TO GO WITH THE KING. IT WAS A SAD LEAVE-TAKING.

A KING'S COMMAND MUST BE OBEYED. YOU ARE GOOD CHILDREN AND WILL UNDERSTAND.

WHO WILL PLAY WITH US?



AND THE ELEPHANT LEFT FOR VARANASI WITH THE KING AND HIS MEN.



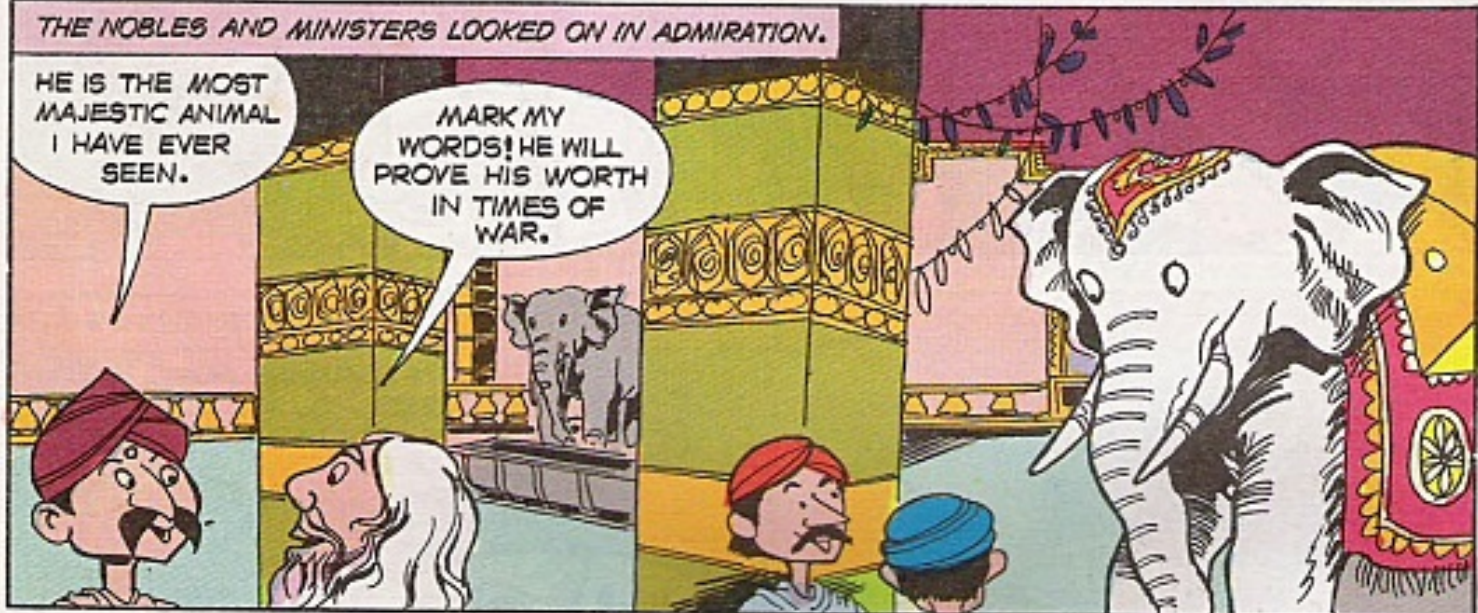
THE CITY WORE A FESTIVE AIR. THE ELEPHANT, REGALLY CAPARISONED, WAS LED TO HIS GAILY DECORATED STABLE.



THE NOBLES AND MINISTERS LOOKED ON IN ADMIRATION.

HE IS THE MOST MAJESTIC ANIMAL I HAVE EVER SEEN.

MARK MY WORDS! HE WILL PROVE HIS WORTH IN TIMES OF WAR.



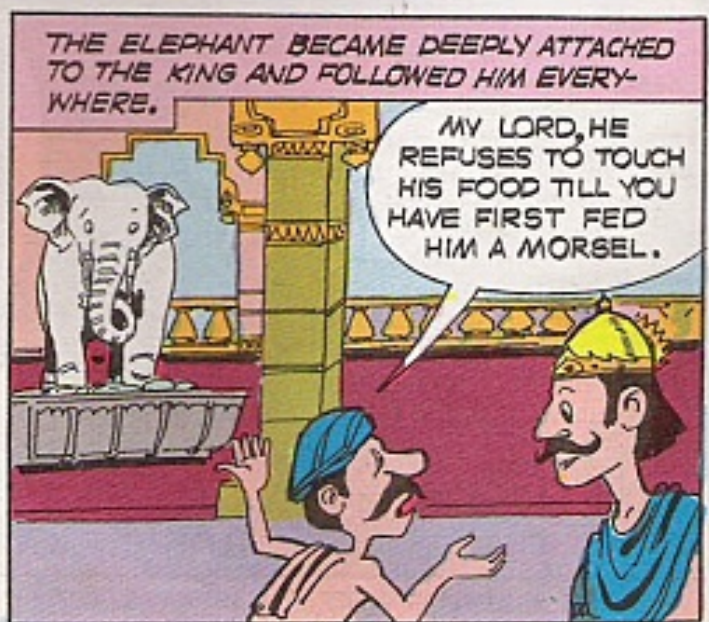
THE KING MADE OVER HALF HIS KINGDOM TO THE ELEPHANT.

YOU ARE A BROTHER TO ME AND A COMPANION FOR LIFE.



THE ELEPHANT BECAME DEEPLY ATTACHED TO THE KING AND FOLLOWED HIM EVERYWHERE.

MY LORD, HE REFUSES TO TOUCH HIS FOOD TILL YOU HAVE FIRST FED HIM A MORSEL.





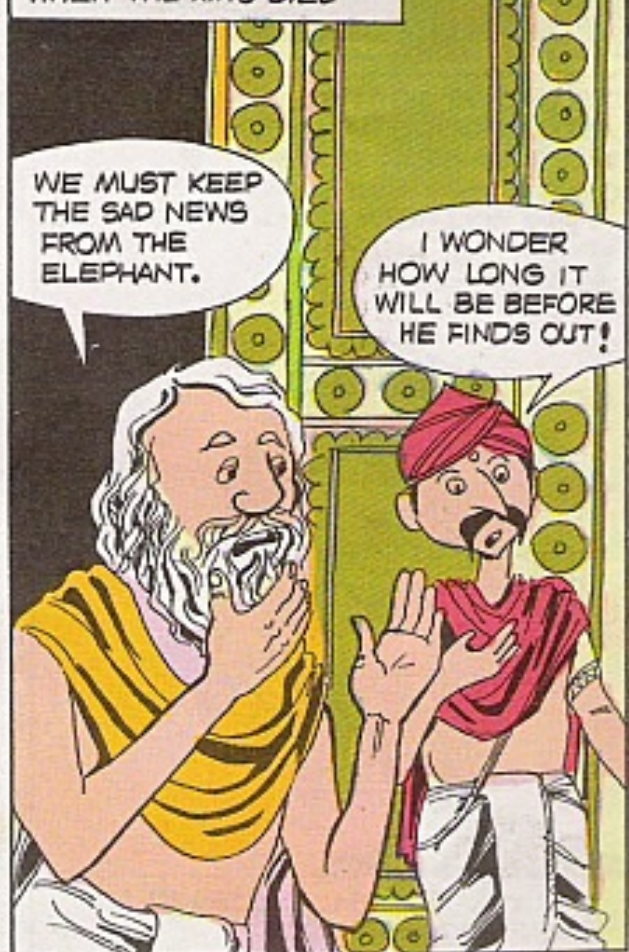
A FEW MONTHS LATER, THE QUEEN WAS EXPECTING A BABY.



BUT THEIR JOY WAS SHORT-LIVED. THE KING FELL SERIOUSLY ILL, AS HE LAY DYING —



WHEN THE KING DIED —





MEANWHILE, THE KING OF KOSALA WAS MARCHING TOWARDS VARANASI.

THE KING IS DEAD, AND CONFUSION REIGNS.



ACCORDING TO THE ASTROLOGERS, THE QUEEN WILL GIVE BIRTH TO HER CHILD WITHIN A WEEK. IF IT IS A SON, WE WILL FIGHT. IF NOT, WE WILL SURRENDER.



THE KING OF KOSALA ACCEDED TO THEIR REQUEST.

THERE WERE HURRIED CONSULTATIONS AT VARANASI.

WE SHOULD ASK THEM TO SUSPEND FIGHTING FOR A WEEK.

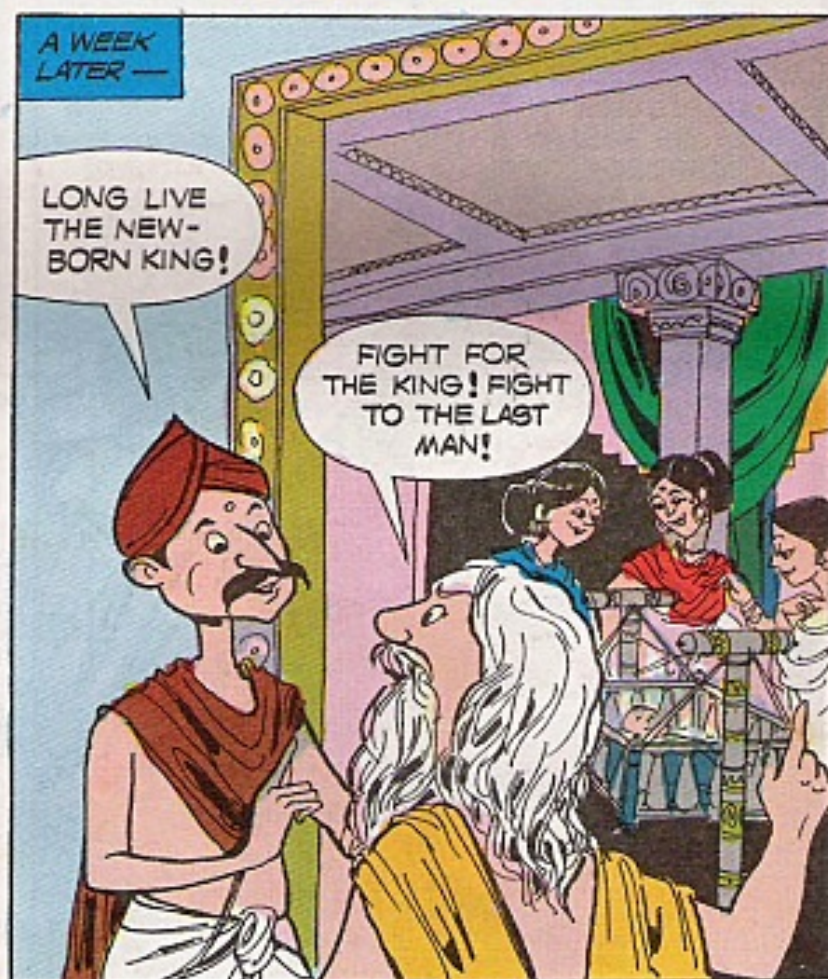
HOW WILL THAT HELP?



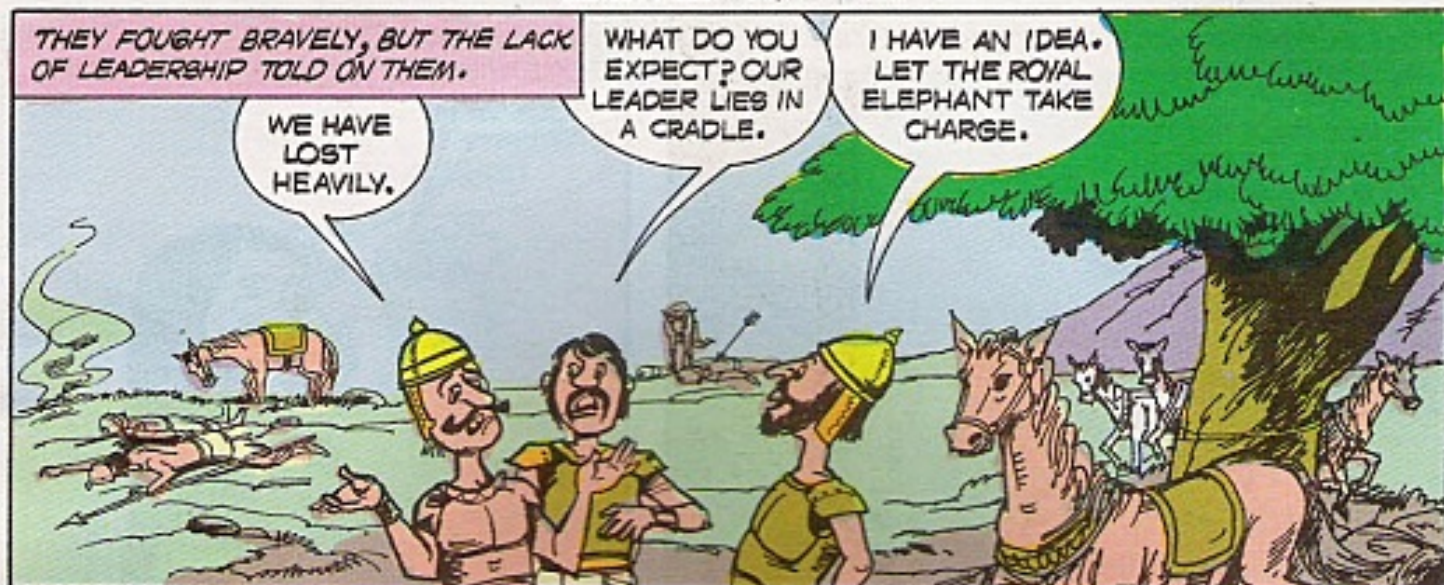
A WEEK LATER —

LONG LIVE THE NEW-BORN KING!

FIGHT FOR THE KING! FIGHT TO THE LAST MAN!









THE ELEPHANT KNELT TO RECEIVE THE QUEEN'S BLESSING.

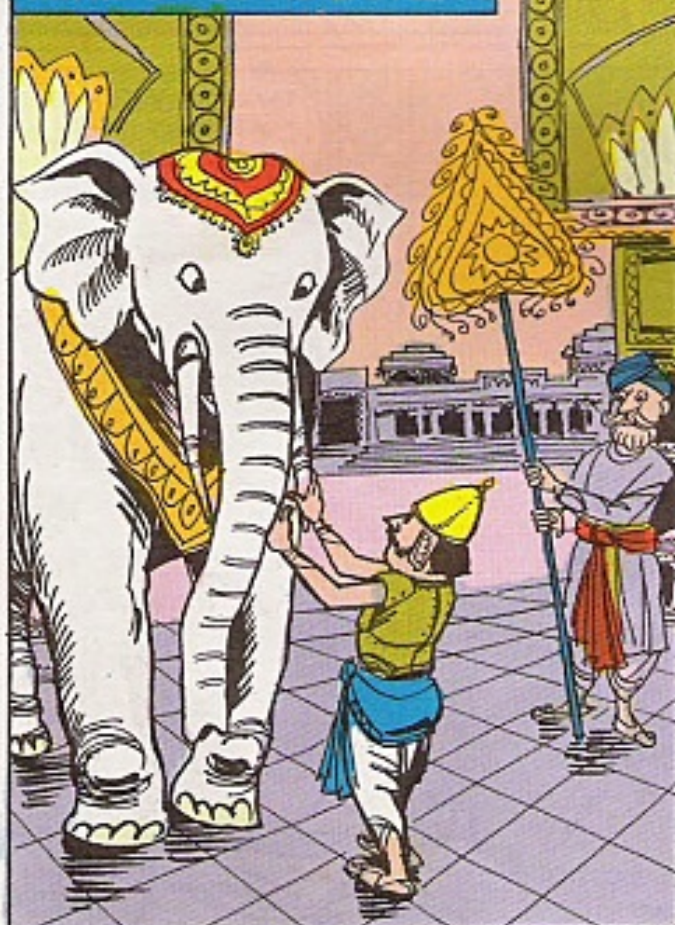
I SHALL TALK NO MORE OF DEATH. YOUR SON SHALL RULE.



WE NOW HAVE SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR.

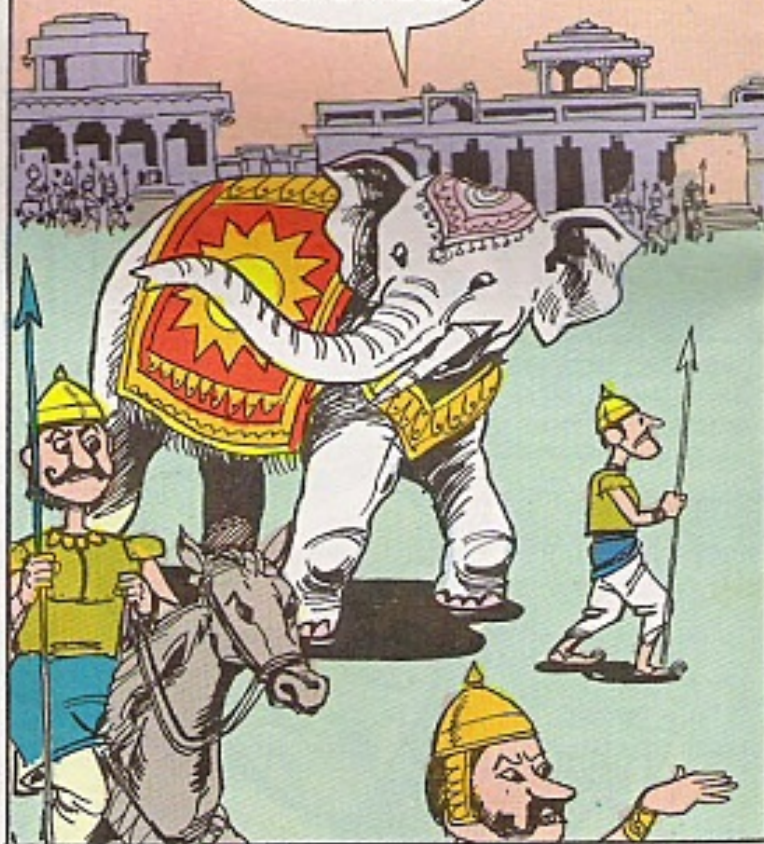


AS THE KEEPER OF THE ROYAL STABLES GOT HIM READY FOR THE BATTLE...



... THE KING'S MEN FELT THEIR HOPES RISE.

GET THE TROOPS OUT! LET NO MAN DAWDLE!





AND THEN THE ELEPHANT CHARGED FORWARD, THE SKIES RESOUNDING WITH HIS MIGHTY TRUMPETING.

PUT COURAGE IN YOUR HEARTS AND STRENGTH IN YOUR ARMS!



FOLLOW OUR LEADER, HE IS DIVINELY INSPIRED!

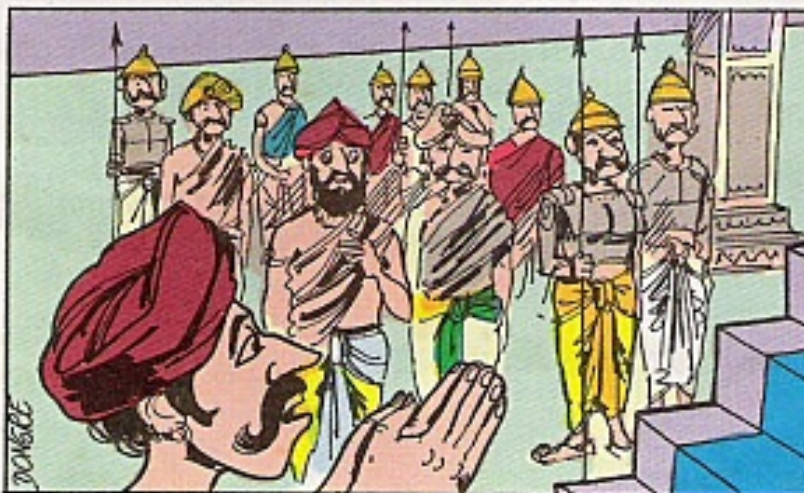


THE KOSALA ARMIES WERE ROUTED, THE BATTLE WON, THE ELEPHANT STOOD BEFORE THE QUEEN, HIS PROUD HEAD BOWED BEFORE HIS INFANT MASTER.

MY GRIEF IS GREAT FOR YOUR DEAD FATHER. BUT I LIVE FOR YOU AND FOR THE GREAT DESTINY THAT AWAITS YOU, MY PRINCE.



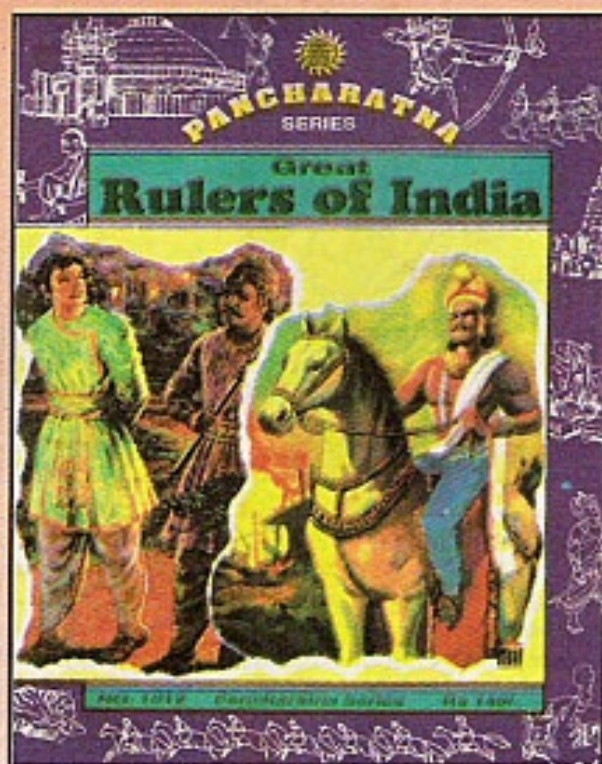
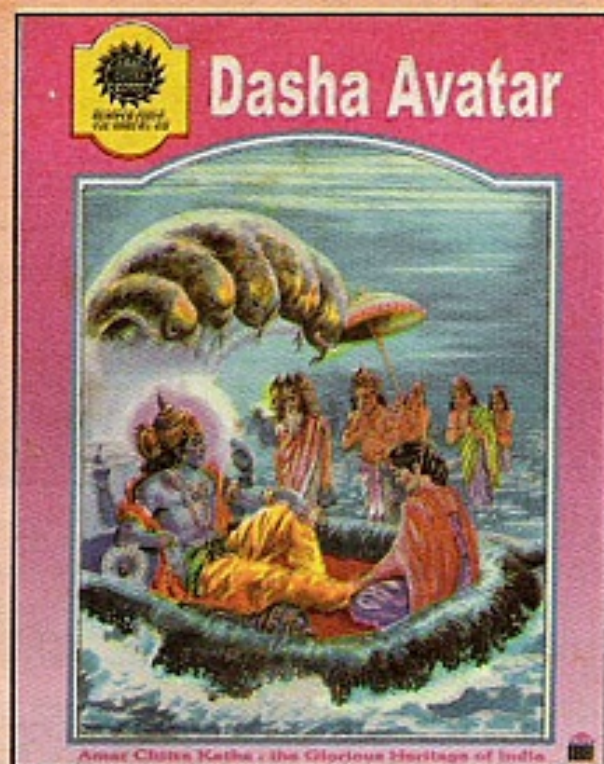
AND THE BODHISATTVA (FOR THE CHILD WAS NONE OTHER THAN HE) GREW UP TO INHERIT A KINGDOM WHICH HE RULED WISELY AND WELL.







## Special Issues and Pancharatna Series are available now.



Rs. 60/-

- 10,001 The Ramayana
- 10,002 Dash Avatar
- 10,003 Jesus Christ
- 10,004 Tales from the Panchatantra
- 10,005 Tales from the Jatakas
- 10,006 Tales of Hanuman
- 10,007 Tales of Birbal

## Special Issues

Rs. 140/-

- 10,008 More Tales of Birbal
- 10,009 Tales of Krishna
- 10,010 Great Plays of Kalidasa
- 10,011 Great Sanskrit Plays
- 10,012 Great Indian Emperors.
- 10,013 Vishnu the Saviour

## Pancharatna Series

- 1001. Stories of Krishna
- 1002. Stories of Birbal
- 1003. Stories from the Jatakas
- 1004. Stories from the Panchatantra
- 1005. Stories of Rama
- 1006. Tales of Humour
- 1007. More stories from the Jatakas
- 1008. Stories of Shiva

- 1009. Devotees of Vishnu
- 1010. Heroes from the Mahabharata
- 1011. Stories from Sanskrit Drama
- 1012. Great Rulers of India
- 1013. Brave Rajputs
- 1014. Ancient Tales of Wit and Wisdom
- 1015. Further Stories from the Jatakas

Available at all leading bookstores  
or at CROSSWORD, Mumbai, Pune, Nashik, Delhi and Ahmedabad



Published by

**INDIA BOOK HOUSE LIMITED,**

Fleet Bldg, Mathuradas Vasani Rd., Marol Naka, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059.



# ADVENTURE ! THRILLS ! EXCITEMENT !

Owning a dog is a lot of fun. But when that dog is Ranjha, fur flies and criminals go in fear. Tinkle presents the true-life adventures of the one and only Dog Detective Ranjha, a never-before saga of a dog's heroism and intelligence.

## DOG DETECTIVE **RANJHA**

by Partap Sharma

A TINKLE COLLECTION



**IBH**

Published by

**INDIA BOOK HOUSE LIMITED,**

Fleet Bldg, Mathuradas VasANJI Rd, Marol Naka,  
Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 059.

Price Rs 40





Amar Chitra Katha brings you

# The Mahabharata

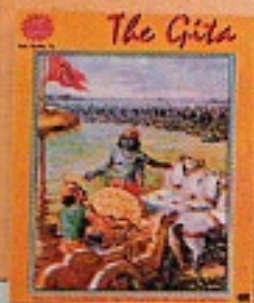
in 14 Special Volumes, each containing 96 pages.

Sold in sturdy cardboard stand along with  
a complimentary copy of the Gita,  
Amar Chitra Katha deluxe edition.

Price Rs 980 only

## SPECIAL OFFER TO INDIVIDUALS

- Pre-publication orders received till August 31, 1999 at the following address will be executed at Rs 850. Add Rs 20 on outstation cheques.
- No postage will be charged



Published by

**INDIA BOOK HOUSE LIMITED**

Fleet Building, Mathuradas Vasanji Road, Marol Naka, Andheri (E),  
Mumbai - 400 059. Tel. : 8503650/8503981, Fax : 8503650

# Mahabharata